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TALKS WITH PUTIN

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Security up as pilgrims arrive in Kashmir

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Governor's move is dangerous, unconstitutional

Norms say he should be guided by CM's advice

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GOLDEN DAY

Harinder and Dipika win Asian squash title

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'Cybercrimes can be reported at any police station'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, who took charge recently, interacted with readers of *The Hindu* at THtalks Bengaluru on Friday. He announced two key initiatives during the interaction.

Henceforth, citizens can report cybercrimes at any police station and they will not be directed to Cybercrime, Economic Offences, and Narcotics (CEN) police stations. To reduce the burden of cases at CEN police stations, law and order police stations will also probe cybercrimes and only complex cases will be transferred to CEN stations, Mr. Dayananda said.

He also announced that each police division in the city will soon have a dedicated women's police station.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 4

After high drama, Biren drops his resignation plan

Women gather outside CM's residence, tear up his resignation letter; BJP says CM decided against quitting to honour people's sentiments

The Hindu Bureau
IMPHAL/NEW DELHI

Beleaguered Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh was stopped by his supporters from resigning on Friday, amid high drama in Imphal. The BJP later announced that Mr. Singh had decided against quitting, to honour the sentiments of the people.

Mr. Singh was scheduled to meet Governor Anusuiya Uikye at the Raj Bhavan, barely 200 metres from his official residence, to tender his resignation at 1 p.m. The appointment was rescheduled to 3 p.m. The CM, along with some 20 MLAs (including Ministers), came out of his house around 2.20 p.m. in a convoy of vehicles but hundreds of women blocked his path. He returned after they asked him not to resign.

A group of Ministers emerged from his residence after some time and one of them read out Mr. Singh's resignation letter before handing it to some women, who tore it up.

Turning the tide: Women gather outside the residence of N. Biren Singh to show their support for the Chief Minister. ANI

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Twitter's plea on Centre's 'block' orders dismissed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka dismissed a petition filed by Twitter, challenging several blocking orders issued by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on the ground that it is 'devoid of merits'.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit also imposed a cost of ₹50 lakh on Twitter citing its conduct of approaching the court without complying with the Central government's orders. The costs are to be paid within 45 days to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. The court also said that ₹5,000 would have to be paid for every day that the payment is delayed.

Referring to the operative portions, Justice Dixit said that he has framed eight questions.

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Stalin 'disregards' letter, asserts Governor has no power to sack a Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wrote to Governor R.N. Ravi on Friday, informing him that his "unconstitutional communication" dismissing arrested Minister V. Senthilbalaji "without my advice is void *ab initio* and *non est* in law and hence has been disregarded".

Reacting strongly to Mr. Ravi's communication initially "dismissing" Mr. Senthilbalaji and then subsequently keeping it in "abeyance" on Thursday night, Mr. Stalin said that though the Governor's letters required only an outright disregard, he wished to clarify the facts and law on the issue.

Sources privy to the development said that Mr. Stalin sent a six-page letter to the Governor, arguing that the aid and advice of the Chief Minister and the Cabinet was neither sought nor given for either of Mr. Ravi's communications. Noting that the Governor had kept his "dismissal letter" in abeyance, in order to seek the opinion of the Attorney-General on the intervention of the Union Home Minister, Mr. Stalin said that this showed that Mr. Ravi had acted in haste "with scant regard to the Constitution of India".

Referring to Mr. Ravi's charge that he had used "intemperate language" in a letter to Raj Bhavan earlier this month, the CM said: "We have always been pleasant, courteous and respectful towards you in line with our Tamil culture. However, that does not mean we have to abide by unconstitutional directives issued by you." He said Mr. Ravi's first letter "even alluding to breakdown of constitutional machinery" was "not so veiled threat".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Toll on NICE Road hiked

BENGALURU
Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises Limited (NICE) has increased toll by 10% to 20%, and the revised rates will come into effect on July 1. Earlier in July 2022, the NICE had increased the toll after five years. » PAGE 2

BJP entrusts BSY with task

BENGALURU
The BJP has identified 11 leaders who have been making controversial remarks and has entrusted veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa with the task of making them fall in line with party discipline. » PAGE 8

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

G20 भारत 2023 INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Karnataka Forest Department
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment **Shri Eshwar B Khandre** planted a sapling in Vidhana Soudha premises on the occasion of opening of his office at Vikasa Soudha.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka

Plantation Week
My plant, my pride

Join hands with **Karnataka Forest Department** in Vanamahotsava to be held from **1st July to 7th July 2023** across the state.

July 1st to 7th 2023 Plantation of **1 Crore** saplings
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No action is small, Don't miss to do your bit and be part of this Green cover revolution campaign #FosterForestsforFuture

Aranya Sahayavani: 1926 /aranya.kfd /aranya.kfd @aranya_kfd aranya_kfd

Is the King of Queen's a Wimbledon contender?

World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz won the prestigious tune-up event at Queen's Club in only his third tournament on grass. But has the 20-year-old's grass-court game advanced sufficiently to deal with the threats that lurk on the slippery, naturally wearing surface at the All England Club?

Reuters
Associated Press

Clay-court specialists of a certain vintage had a pet phrase for the period between Roland Garros and Wimbledon, when they were leaving their beloved dirt and attempting to find their feet on the lush lawns.

"Grass is for cows," they would say, repeating an expression reportedly coined by Spain's Manuel Santana, who ironically won the Wimbledon men's singles title in 1966.

It was a line many Spanish players turned to in the 1980s and 90s – and despite Conchita Martinez's triumph in the women's singles in 1994, it wasn't until Rafael Nadal mastered Wimbledon's Centre Court in 2008 and 2010 that Spanish players began to look at playing on grass as an opportunity and not an obligation.

Garbine Muguruza's success in 2017 furthered this belief, and so the idea of a Spanish top seed at Wimbledon is no longer unimaginable. Especially after Wimbledon moved from its grass-weighted seeding formula to a system based solely on the rankings.

Carlos Alcaraz, the men's No. 1 seed at next week's Championships, isn't a clay-court specialist by any means, but he is still discovering his game on grass.

Before last week's Queen's Club Championships, the 20-year-old had played just six matches on the surface – all of them at the All England Club across two Wimbledon appearances.

Alcaraz's first grass-court match outside Wimbledon proved challenging. He had to fight back from a set down to beat Arthur Rinderknech, a 6'5" Frenchman ranked in the mid-80s.

In his first appearance since losing to Novak Djokovic in the French Open semifinals, Alcaraz faced difficulties in dealing with Rinderknech's big serve and net coverage. "I wasn't able to practise too much at home as we have no grass courts," he said. "It's tough playing here but I enjoy playing on grass. I would say I'm going to be better in the next round."

Alcaraz lived up to his word, growing in confidence on the surface and winning the next four matches without dropping a set to secure the prestigious Queen's Club title. "It means a lot to have my name on the trophy," he said. "It was special to play here where so many legends have won. To see my name surrounded by the great champions is amazing."

> I have quite a lot of confidence heading into Wimbledon. So right now I feel [like] one of the favourites. I mean, Novak [Djokovic] is the main favourite. That's obvious

Alcaraz will now hope to emulate the men who tasted Wimbledon success after being crowned the King of Queen's. Over the last 40 years, this list includes Andy Murray (2013, 2016), Nadal (2008), Lleyton Hewitt (2002), Pete Sampras (1995, 1999), Boris Becker (1985) and John McEnroe (1984).

"I have quite a lot of confidence heading into Wimbledon," said Alcaraz. "I ended the week playing at a high level, so right now I feel [like] one of the favourites to win Wimbledon. I mean, Novak [Djokovic] is the main favourite. That's obvious. But I will try to play at this level, to have chances to beat him or make the final."

Djokovic, who chose not to play a grass warm-up event, has reigned supreme in SW19 in each of the past four editions – 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022; the tournament was cancelled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. He has won seven Wimbledon titles in all.

Alcaraz knows he will have to improve further on grass to oust Djokovic from his throne. The Serb's 86 wins at Wimbledon are more than the rest of the top 20 combined. It's a detail the World No. 1 is aware of. "I saw a statistic that Novak has won more matches in Wimbledon than the other top 20 players [put together]," Alcaraz said. "What can I say about that, you know?"

Indeed, Djokovic has not lost on Centre Court in 10 years. Given that Alcaraz and Djokovic are the top two seeds, they can meet only in the championship match on July 16. And Alcaraz is hoping to have the crowd on his side should the two keep their date. "I also saw that Djokovic has never lost a match on Centre Court since 2013 when he lost against Andy [Murray], it's crazy. But I hope to have the crowd behind me to change that stat."

But while Alcaraz is being seen as the only legitimate threat to Djokovic at Wimbledon, it's far from certain that the 20-year-old will have a deep run. He made the last 16 in 2022, beaten by Jannik Sinner. Playing as a wildcard in 2021, he lost in the second round to Daniil Medvedev.

Alcaraz has improved since then, but has his grass-court game advanced sufficiently to deal with the threats that lurk on the slippery, naturally wearing surface?

The signs from Queen's were encouraging. Even 22-time Grand Slam champion Nadal took a while to adapt to grass, but the speed at which Alcaraz looked at ease was astonishing. He faced tricky opposition: 2014 Queen's winner Grigor Dimitrov in the quarters, the 6'5" Sebastian Korda in the semis and Alex de Minaur, one of the craftiest lawn players around, in the final.

Alcaraz showcased qualities that bring success on grass – notably an impressive sliced backhand when required and confidence around the net. His forehand was often devastating, regularly clocking 90mph and drawing gasps from the crowd. While his second serve offered the opponent an opening – he lost 50% of such points – he did enough with his first serve (66% accuracy, 76% points won) on a surface weighted in the server's favour.

Most significant of all was his emphasis on movement – it's accepted tennis wisdom that every facet of play on grass, with its lower, less predictable bounce, flows from footwork.

"Moving, for me, is the key to everything on grass," Alcaraz said. "I am comfortable going to the net and playing aggressively. For me it is similar to other surfaces with my style. But the movement is totally different, more tiring, more difficult, so you have to be really specific."

The Spaniard is studying the best to understand their footwork. "I like to put on videos of Federer, of Murray, who move best on grass," he said. "I try to imitate them a bit. I'm not talking about Djokovic because he slides like [on a] clay court. [That is] not my case, but I try to put similar stuff in my game that Roger and Andy do in the grass."

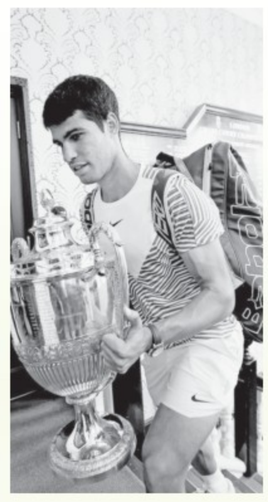
Alcaraz is clearly a fast learner. At Queen's, he joked that he felt like a grass-court veteran. "Right now I feel like I'm playing for 10 years on grass, it's something crazy for me," he said. "I didn't expect to adapt my movement, my game so fast on grass."

But he also knows that he needs more experience to fully realise his potential on the surface. Irrespective of what he does at this year's Wimbledon, it's clear that he has the attitude to succeed on grass. This, allied with his age and undeniable talent, gives Alcaraz everything he needs to crack the Wimbledon code over the next decade.

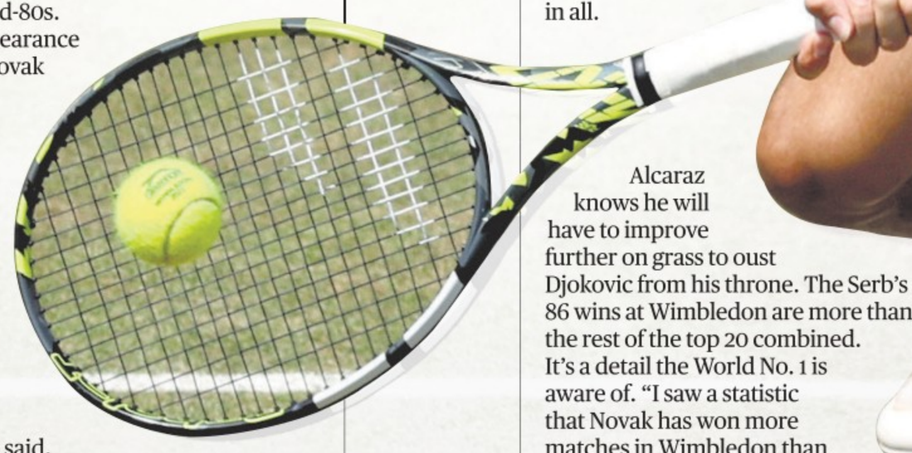
> I like to put on videos of Federer, of Murray, who move best on grass. I try to imitate them a bit

Alcaraz on lawn

Tournaments played: **3**
Win-loss: **9-2 (81.8%)**
Titles: **1 (2023 Queen's Club Championship)**
Wimbledon record
2022: Fourth round
2021: Second round
Career stats on grass
Aces: **84 (11 matches)**
Service game win-rate **84%**
Return game win-rate **23%**



GETTY IMAGES



STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	20	7,675	18
2	Novak Djokovic	36	7,595	16
3	Daniil Medvedev	27	5,890	22
4	Casper Ruud	24	4,960	24
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	4,670	20
6	Holger Rune	20	4,510	25
7	Andrey Rublev	25	4,255	25
8	Jannik Sinner	21	3,345	22
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,310	23
10	Frances Tiafoe	25	3,085	22
11	Karen Khachanov	27	3,035	20
12	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	2,760	22
13	Cameron Norrie	27	2,610	22
14	Borna Coric	26	2,305	21
15	Lorenzo Musetti	21	2,210	27

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 222 ▲ 4 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 383 ▼ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	8,940	17
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,066	17
3	Elena Rybakina	24	5,090	20
4	Jessica Pegula	29	4,905	17
5	Caroline Garcia	29	4,845	24
6	Ons Jabeur	28	3,492	16
7	Coco Gauff	19	3,305	18
8	Maria Sakkari	27	3,301	22
9	Petra Kvitova	33	3,101	15
10	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,830	22
11	Daria Kasatkina	26	2,685	24
12	Veronika Kudermetova	26	2,600	22
13	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,560	22
14	Belinda Bencic	26	2,380	18
15	Liudmila Samsonova	24	2,301	20

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 197 ▲ 9 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 235 ▼ 1 spot

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	195	6
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	126	2
3	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	117	0
4	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	102	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	68	0
6	George Russell	Mercedes	65	0
7	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	54	0
8	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	37	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	29	0
10	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	15	0
11	Lando Norris	McLaren	12	0
12	Alex Albon	Williams	7	0
13	Nico Hulkenberg	Haas	6	0
14	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	5	0
15	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	5	0
16	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	4	0
17	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	2	0
18	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	2	0
19	Nyck de Vries	AlphaTauri	0	0
20	Logan Sargeant	Williams	0	0

Max Verstappen

Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	Red Bull	321	8
2	Mercedes	167	0
3	Aston Martin	154	0
4	Ferrari	122	0
5	Alpine	44	0
6	McLaren	17	0
7	Alfa Romeo	9	0
8	Haas	8	0
9	Williams	7	0
10	AlphaTauri	2	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Viktor Axelsen	103,005	12
2	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	89,811	17
3	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	78,278	15
4	Kodai Naraoka	77,015	20
5	Jonatan Christie	70,921	16
6	Shi Yu Qi	70,554	18
7	Loh Kean Yew	69,882	20
8	Prannoy H. S.	68,927	19
9	Chou Tien Chen	68,627	21
10	Li Shi Feng	65,538	19
11	Kenta Nishimoto	58,417	20
12	Lu Guang Zu	56,990	19
13	Ng Ka Long Angus	54,522	20
14	Lee Zii Jia	54,476	18
15	Kanta Tsuneyama	54,271	18

Top Indians ▶

Prannoy H. S.
Rank 8

Lakshya Sen
Rank 19

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Akane Yamaguchi	103,717	15
2	An Se Young	102,264	15
3	Chen Yu Fei	95,046	14
4	Tai Tzu Ying	89,186	14
5	He Bing Jiao	79,974	17
6	Carolina Marin	73,740	17
7	Ratchanok Intanon	68,723	16
8	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	63,151	21
9	Han Yue	62,870	20
10	Wang Zhi Yi	62,810	17
11	Pornpawee Chochuwong	57,219	20
12	P.V. Sindhu	54,460	14
13	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	54,164	15
14	Michelle Li	52,711	19
15	Beiwen Zhang	51,895	21

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 12

Saina Nehwal
Rank 30

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	887	923
2	Kane Williamson	883	919
3	Marnus Labuschagne	877	937
4	Travis Head	873	884
5	Babar Azam	862	882
6	Steve Smith	861	947
7	Usman Khawaja	836	836
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	780	783
10	Rishabh Pant	758	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	860	904
2	James Anderson	829	903
3	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
4	Pat Cummins	824	914
5	Ollie Robinson	802	820
6	Nathan Lyon	799	799
7	Shaheen Afridi	787	836
8	Jasprit Bumrah	772	835
9	Ravindra Jadeja	765	899
9	Stuart Broad	765	880

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	886	898
2	Rassie van der Dussen	777	796
3	Fakhar Zaman	755	784
4	Imam-ul-Haq	745	815
5	Shubman Gill	738	738
6	David Warner	726	880
7	Harry Tector	723	725
8	Virat Kohli	719	911
9	Quinton de Kock	718	813
10	Rohit Sharma	707	885

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Josh Hazlewood	705	733
2	Mohammed Siraj	691	736
3	Mitchell Starc	686	783
4	Matt Henry	667	691
5	Trent Boult	660	775
6	Adam Zampa	652	655
7	Rashid Khan	640	806
8	Shaheen Afridi	630	688
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	630	712
10	Mohammad Nabi	626	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	906	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	811	875
3	Babar Azam	756	896
4	Aiden Markram	748	796
5	Rilee Rossouw	724	724
6	Muhammad Waseem	716	716
7	Devon Conway	709	831
8	Dawid Malan	705	915
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Jos Buttler	670	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	816
2	Fazalhaq Farooqi	692	692
3	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	686	797
5	Maheesh Theekshana	684	684
5	Adil Rashid	684	746
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Sam Curran	673	688
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	668	745
10	Anrich Nortje	667	695

Toll on NICE Road hiked by 10% to 20%

NICE says that the new rates will come into effect from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises Limited (NICE) has increased toll by 10% to 20%, and the revised rates will come into effect on July 1, said a notification issued on June 30.

The revised toll for Hosur Road to Bannerghatta Road is ₹50 for cars and ₹25 for two-wheelers, Bannerghatta Road to Kanakapura Road is ₹40 for cars and ₹15 for two-wheelers.

From Kanakapura Road to Clover Leaf junction, the toll is ₹30 for cars and ₹10 for two-wheelers.

From Clover Leaf junction to Mysuru Road, the toll for cars is ₹25 and for two-wheelers, the figure is ₹10.

From Mysuru Road to Magadi Road, the toll for cars is ₹55 and that for two-wheelers is ₹25.

Revised toll

Section	Car	Two-wheeler
Hosur Road to Bannerghatta Road	₹50	₹25
Bannerghatta Road to Kanakapura Road	₹40	₹15
Kanakapura Road to Colver Leaf Junction	₹30	₹10
Colver Leaf Junction to Mysuru Road	₹25	₹10
Mysuru Road to Magadi Road	₹55	₹25
Magadi Road to Tumakuru Road	₹45	₹15
Link Road	₹60	₹20

*Source: Public notice by NICE

From Magadi Road to Tumakuru Road, the toll for cars is ₹45, and that for two-wheelers is ₹15.

From Link Road, the toll is ₹60 for cars, and that for two-wheelers is ₹20.

Earlier in July 2022, the NICE had increased the toll after five years.

The motorists have been complaining about the long traffic snarls on NICE road for the past few days.

Earlier, *The Hindu* had reported on the traffic snarls owing to ongoing road works on the NICE stretch. A 200-metre stretch of NICE Road, where ongoing work is creating a nearly 2-km-long traffic jam, is resulting in motorists questioning why they have to pay tolls and get stuck in traffic.

NICE officials had claimed that the traffic is managed well, and said the work is related to road elevation work undertaken to make the road safer for vehicles.

Mandya legislators seek CM's intervention to stop toll collection at Srirangapatna

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

,Three legislators from Mandya have sought Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's intervention to stop collection of toll on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway at Gananguru in Srirangapatna scheduled to begin from July 1 till all pending works of the project are completed.

Congress MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda, and MLAs representing Mandya and Srirangapatna Assembly constituencies viz P. Ravi Kumar and Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda respectively, who have taken up the cudgels against National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI) decision to start collecting toll in Srirangapatna, have also written letters in the regard to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Additional Chief Secretary of Public Works Department, Government of Karnataka.

The Congress legislators have pointed out that collection of toll at Gananguru in Srirangapatna will 'overburden' motorists, who are already facing financial problems due to inflation.

The 10-lane expressway between Bengaluru and Mysuru, which was inaugurated in March this year, may have eased the travel hours, but the motorists are forced to cough up a huge sum of money in the form of toll, the letter said.

Flooding

The legislators have raised questions over the propriety of levying a toll when works on the highway project were yet to be fully completed.

They have cited the examples of the incomplete work on the service road at Hanakere Underpass in Mandya taluk and the bridge on the service road connecting Hale Budanur with Hosa Budanur, which was causing flooding on the expressway.

Apart from flooding on different stretches of the expressway, and service roads, the legislators complained that street lights were not properly functioning at many places.

There was also improper fencing and an absence of proper entries and exits on the expressway. Hence, collection of toll at this juncture was condemnable

The levy at Gananguru means people travelling in four-wheelers will have to pay ₹320 for one-way between Bengaluru and Mysuru and ₹485 for a two-way journey. They have urged CM Siddaramaiah to intervene and prevail upon the NHAI to stop collection of toll till the pending works are completed.

Service road near Hebbal police station closed for flyover work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One of the measures taken to decongest Hebbal has been the addition of ramps to the existing flyover. The new ramp will stretch from Esteem Mall to Baptist Hospital

The traffic woes at Hebbal continue as the service road, which passes in front of Hebbal police station, towards the city, has been completely closed to traffic as of Friday.

As the work to add a ramp to the Hebbal flyover has been going, the space for traffic on the road had gotten narrower over the last two weeks. The closure of the road resulted in traffic snarls after the Hebbal flyover.

One of the measures taken to decongest Hebbal has been the addition of ramps to the existing flyover. The work has been taken up by Bangalore Development Authority. The new ramp will stretch from Esteem Mall to Baptist Hospital The service road will be closed for at least a month, said Sachin Ghorpade, DCP, Traffic (North). "We are trying to negotiate with the BDA and the contractor to take up the work in two halves on the road, but they are saying that it is technically not possible. If that does not happen, then from Monday, the traffic coming from Bhoopasandra towards the city below the Hebbal flyover will be diverted towards Sanjay Nagar. From there they can come into the city," Mr. Ghorpade said.

The BTP officials also said that with the work of adding ramps expected to go on for another year, there will be traffic diversions accordingly near Hebbal flyover.

ADGP Alok Kumar inspects stretches on expressway

Additional Director-General of Police (Traffic and Road Safety) Alok Kumar inspecting stretches of Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in Mandya district on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Additional Director- General of Police (Traffic and Road Safety) Alok Kumar conducted an inspection of the stretches of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway passing through Mandya district on Friday.

Mr. Kumar's inspection comes in the wake of safety concerns raised over travel on the highway following a string of accidents reported on the road after it was widened into a ten-lane expressway.

He held a meeting with officials from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Road Transport Office (RTO), Public Works Department (PWD) and Health Department on the precautionary measures to be put in place on the expressway.

Mr. Kumar, who inspected various stretches of the expressway from the border of Mandya at Nidaghatta as well as the toll booth erected at Gananguru in Srirangapatna taluk, also examined the road safety measures in place in the wake of the accidents that had taken place.

During the inspection of the expressway, the Additional Director General of Police held interactions with the residents of villages along the expressway, heard their concerns and communicated the same to the authorities from NHAI.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kumar also inspected the highway patrol vehicles stationed at Mandya.

Mandya Superintendent of Police N. Yathish and other senior officials accompanied Mr. Kumar.

'Committed to protecting the interests of industries'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The government is committed to protecting the interests of small, micro and medium industries in Karnataka, said Chief Minister (CM) Siddaramaiah on Friday.

The Chief Minister was interacting with an MSME delegation led by Manjunath H., President of Peenya Industrial Association at his official residence, Krishna.

Tariff hike

Responding to the delegation's concerns over the increase in power tariff, the CM said Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) increased the electricity tariff before his government came to power.

He asked industries to submit a proposal to KERC regarding the tariff hike. He also assured the delegates that he would look into the demands of the association including the establishment of the Peenya Industrial Township Authority, providing infrastructure facilities and others.

Wembanyama: the giant kid under a global spotlight

The 7'4" French prodigy has the world's eyes on him – and this is without ever setting foot on an NBA court. Widely viewed as the biggest prospect since LeBron James, the 19-year-old was welcomed like a rockstar by San Antonio fans who expect him to become Spurs' newest saviour

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse

Victor Wembanyama's life has been a whirlwind ride since last week's glitzy draft in Brooklyn, New York.

The NBA's most anticipated No. 1 pick since LeBron James received a rockstar-style welcome from fans at San Antonio's airport before being chauffeured to an eye-opening dinner with Spurs royalty: legendary coach Gregg Popovich and Hall of Famers Tim Duncan, David Robinson and Manu Ginobili. "Honestly, that was one of the best dinners of my life," said Wembanyama. "And not because of the food. The food was good. But the people was crazy. In a couple hours, I learned more about the NBA than my whole life before."

Wembanyama has packed in more in a week than some people do in a year, sampling the city's famed breakfast tacos, hunting for a place to stay, exchanging pleasantries with the San Antonio mayor, signing truckloads of jerseys and satisfying an incessant stream of photo requests.

The buzz is palpable in San Antonio. There's someone driving around with a 'Wemby' licence plate. There's a burger with foie gras on the menu at a local sports bar, as a tribute to the French prodigy. There's a mural of him on the outside of a business directly across the street of another mural featuring Duncan, Ginobili and Tony Parker. There's even a mariachi band that already has a song about him. "The fans have been the best at their job," said Wembanyama. "I can only hope to be at their level."

It has been hectic. Wembanyama hasn't had much time for sleep. But he also said that he's enjoying it all: "This is the life I wanted. This is what I worked for. So, it feels normal to me."

Such has been the hype around Wembanyama – coverage of the draft averaged a record 4,928,000 American viewers on ESPN and ABC, peaking at 6,085,000 when the French phenom was drafted – that it is easy to forget how young he is.

As he took the stage for his first news conference inside his new home arena, he couldn't help but notice an accessory the Spurs had commissioned for the occasion. It was a four-foot replica of the Eiffel Tower – made from Lego, which the 19-year-old Wembanyama loves. He smiled when he saw it, then sat next to Spurs general manager Brian Wright and talked business.

The scene was a perfect microcosm of Wembanyama's world right now. He's still a kid, albeit a very big one, not averse to saying that he enjoys building things with Lego. And he's also the player, who seems incredibly mature for his age, on a world stage that the Spurs are betting on to change their fortunes and help them return to championship contention.

The notion of the NBA being a global league is not new, with roughly one out of every four players in the league born outside the USA. But there's never been an international player with the hubbub that Wembanyama has: a global phenomenon even without playing an NBA game.

Not even LeBron James – now a billionaire and the all-time scoring leader in NBA history – had this much global attention when he came into the league 20 years ago. LeBron was a huge deal in America in 2003. Wembanyama is a huge deal globally right now. That's the difference. Stories have been written about him in English, French and Spanish, and social media is plastered with 'Wemby content'.

"Because of all the hype, he'll have a target on his back," Spurs coach Popovich said. "So we'll be most interested in setting [up] an environment where he's comfortable, where he can be Victor. He's not LeBron or Tim [Duncan] or Kobe [Bryant] or anybody else. He's Victor and that's who we want him to be."

Wembanyama is expected to become the third saviour San Antonio has picked with the No. 1 overall draft choice. The club previously hit the jackpot with the selections of Robinson (1987) and Duncan (1997). Now Wembanyama will try with his size 20.5 foot to follow their massive footsteps. The Spurs were only in a position to draft him because they were a woeful 22-60 last season and missed the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

But they won May's draft lottery to get the opportunity to select Wembanyama, who is expected to be an immediate difference-maker. Listed at 7'4", he dominated the French league in his final season, leading all players in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots. In spite of his huge frame, he can shoot 3-pointers with ease and his technical ability is stunning.

The term 'unicorn' has been tossed around in NBA circles for years to describe rare prospects who have both the size to dominate as a power forward or centre and also the dribbling, passing, shooting and speed that resemble a guard. But LeBron felt that term had been used too loosely and went in another direction to describe Wembanyama, one of the highest-ceiling prospects scouts have seen.

"Everybody's been a unicorn over the last few years, but [Wembanyama's] more like an alien," LeBron said last year. "No one has ever seen anyone as tall as he is but as fluid and as graceful as he is on the floor."

The teenager – already being mentored by past Spurs great big men like Duncan and Robinson, along with French Spurs Parker and Boris Diaw – is worldly, engaging, funny and has somehow stayed humble even with all the attention. He has also shown he can make difficult decisions in a clear-headed manner.

Wembanyama announced this week that he won't play for France in the upcoming FIBA World Cup in order to protect his still developing body. He told L'Equipe newspaper that he will instead focus on training for his rookie season in the NBA and the 2024 Summer Olympics.

"My body is like a prototype. I can't base myself on people who look like me," said Wembanyama, who is set to play 170 games in a 24-month period for franchise and country, a far higher load than he has ever shouldered. "So you need specific preparation, personalised anticipation. You can't leave anything to chance. There's a real risk of overload."

Fortunately for Wembanyama, with the Spurs management and his family, he has an excellent support system.

His family shuns the spotlight. "They're really smart and grounded people," he said. "Whenever I need to find stability, I can go to them."

He's going to need those bits of normalcy and all of coach Popovich's proven ability to nurture and develop Hall of Famers. The challenge that awaits Wembanyama is enormous but then he is no shrinking giant.

GETTY IMAGES

Victor Wembanyama

> Everybody's been a unicorn over the last few years, but [Wembanyama's] more like an alien. No one has ever seen anyone as tall as he is but as fluid and as graceful as he is on the floor
> **LEBRON JAMES**

> Because of all the hype, he'll have a target on his back. So we'll be most interested in setting [up] an environment where he's comfortable, where he can be Victor. He's not LeBron or Tim [Duncan] or Kobe [Bryant] or anybody else. He's Victor and that's who we want him to be
> **GREGG POPOVICH**
> San Antonio Spurs coach

> I don't let all this stuff get to my head because I have such great expectations for myself that I'm immune to all this stuff
> **VICTOR WEMBANYAMA**

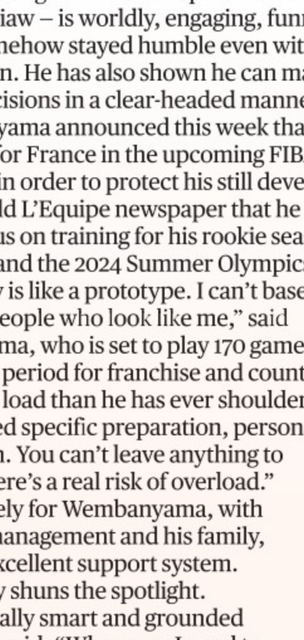
Wemby stats

7'4" Wembanyama's height is still a source of some confusion. He says he stands 7'3" barefoot, which is how players are measured in France. In shoes, he is 7'4" or 7'5" – there is no uniformity among basketball outlets, with both heights being reported. Also, at 19, he may have not finished growing

8'0" Wembanyama's incredible eight-foot wingspan gives him incredible reach and makes many of his shots 'unguardable'

2 He has won silver medals for France in the junior categories of the FIBA World Cup (under-16 and under-19)

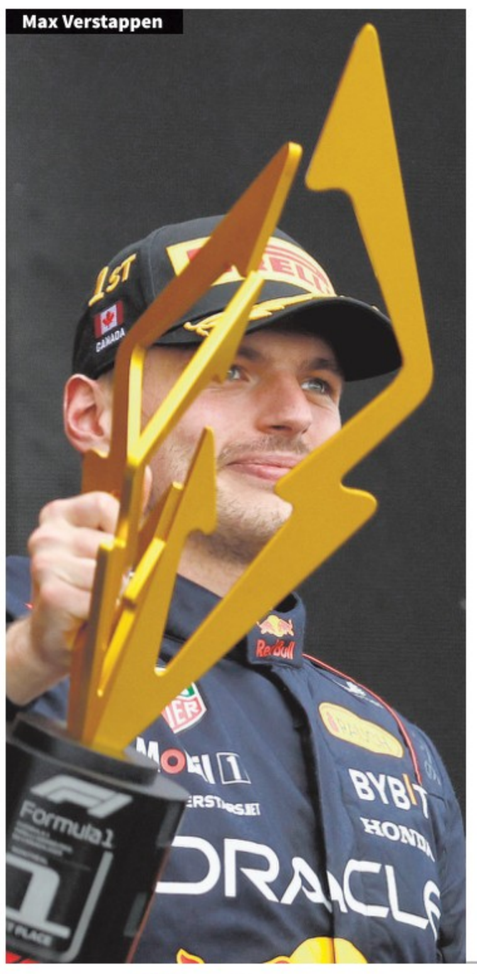
3 The 19-year-old is San Antonio Spurs' third first-overall pick in the draft, after David Robinson (1987) and Tim Duncan (1997). Wembanyama is also the first French player to have been picked No. 1



GAME THEORY

Red Bull gives you wins

Red Bull enters its home Formula One Grand Prix in Austria this weekend after a historic victory in the previous round in Canada. Max Verstappen's lights-to-flag win was his 41st, equalling the great Ayrton Senna's total, as well as Red Bull's 100th. A look at where the Dutch driver stands among the most prolific race-winners in F1 history and which drivers have contributed to Red Bull's century:



Max Verstappen

MOST RACE WINS

Driver	Entries	Wins	Win%
Lewis Hamilton	318	103	32.39%
Michael Schumacher	308	91	29.55%
Sebastian Vettel	300	53	17.67%
Alain Prost	202	51	25.25%
Ayrton Senna	162	41	25.31%
Max Verstappen	171	41	23.98%
Fernando Alonso	366	32	8.74%
Nigel Mansell	192	31	16.15%
Jackie Stewart	100	27	27.00%
Jim Clark	73	25	34.25%
Niki Lauda	177	25	14.12%
Juan Manuel Fangio	52	24	46.15%
Nelson Piquet	207	23	11.11%
Nico Rosberg	206	23	11.17%
Damon Hill	122	22	18.03%
Kimi Raikkonen	353	21	5.95%
Mika Hakkinen	165	20	12.12%

BREAKING DOWN RED BULL'S 100

Driver	Wins	% of Red Bull's total wins
Max Verstappen	41	41%
Sebastian Vettel	38	38%
Mark Webber	9	9%
Daniel Ricciardo	7	7%
Sergio Perez	5	5%

PICTURE THIS

HARRY TRUMP/GETTY IMAGES

Giraffe's-eye view

Cricket attracts all sorts — and so it's not surprising that the tallest living terrestrial animal wants to see what all the fuss is about.

The 10 captains competing in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier perhaps weren't expecting such lofty company when they travelled to the Wild Is Life Sanctuary in Harare recently for the traditional photocall that precedes global tournaments.

It's unclear whether any of the captains fantasised about throwing the new ball to the hoofed mammal, which can reach heights of up to 18 feet, and seeing what steep bounce from a length truly looks like. But it's certain they enjoyed their time with the beautiful giants; how can you not?

Matters have become far less tranquil for the captains since that pleasant outing. When you are fighting for the last two available spots at the World Cup, which will be held in India in October-November, the stakes are high. The Super Sixes, which followed the Group stage, began on Thursday, and by next Sunday, we will know the identity of the two teams which make the cut.

Transport Minister flags off new BMTC training vehicles

BMTC's 50 new Bolero jeeps and training vehicles, parked outside the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation Head office in Bengaluru on Friday. K MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy launched Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC's) 50 new SUVs and training vehicles on Friday. The vehicles will be used by depot managers working at depots who are required to carry out several operational and other activities.

"To execute timely tasks, 50 SUVs have been procured through Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal and under the Financial assistance provided by the State Government in the year 2022-23," a release stated.

Meanwhile, the training vehicle would be deployed in the Vaddarahalli training centre to impart training to the public. "Training vehicles have been purchased with a grant of ₹1.8 crore for imparting vehicle driving training under the said scheme," the release added.

KSRTC approves induction of premier buses

BMTC to recruit 2,000 conductors and 1,000 driver-cum-conductors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Friday in a board meeting decided to induct premier coach buses in the fleet by procuring 44 non-AC sleeper buses, and four AC sleeper buses.

According to the corporation officials, they have decided to procure more premium buses in order to meet the additional requirements of premier coaches and to give competition to private operators.

The KSRTC, facing a staff crunch for the last few years, has decided to recruit 3,745 crew, and 726 technical staff as part of the continuation of direct recruitment. This apart, the KSRTC is going to have an additional recruitment of 1,433 driving staff, and 2,738 technical staff with the permission of the government. The board meeting was held under the chairmanship of Transport Minister, Ramalinga Reddy.

Apart from this, the KSRTC has decided to sanction special leave for a maximum period of six months to the employees of the Corporation who are undergoing Chemoradiotherapy treatment on the advice of the doctor, and as per prevailing guidelines of the government.

The board has given consent to start ten petrol bunk outlets to BPCL, and HPCL , and to select 36 more petrol bunks through a new tender process.

"To increase the commercial revenue of the corporation, 20 fully built trucks of six ton capacity will be added to "Namma Cargo" logistic scheme to facilitate transportation of parcel and courier," release by KSRTC stated.

BMTC to recruit

The board has also decided to recruit 2,000 conductors and 1,000 driver-cum-conductors with the permission of the government for the BMTC.

The board has also given permission to enter into MoU with banks to provide additional insurance packages to dependents of employees who die during accidents, or sustain full or partial injuries to the body.

"Conversion of Primary Health Units working National Urban Health Mission at Yeshwanthpur TTMC and Kempegowda Bus Station to "Namma Clinic" and to operate the same for a period of 5 years on rent free basis," the release added.

Metro services to be disrupted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro services will be disrupted on the Purple Line due to maintenance work on Sunday.

BMRCL said that train services will be affected between Trinity and M.G. Road stations.

To facilitate the above work, there will be curtailment of metro services on the Purple Line for two hours from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. between M.G. Road and Baiyappanahalli stations.

Taiwanese firms keen on converting diesel buses of BMTC to electric

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taiwanese enterprises have evinced interest to collaborate with Karnataka in converting diesel-run BMTC buses to electric buses, said M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, in Bengaluru on June 30,

"Converting diesel-powered BMTC buses to electric buses will enable us to take a step forward towards sustainability. The department will facilitate further talks with the transport department in this regard," he said after meeting a industrial delegation from Taiwan.

The Minister said that Taiwanese companies have the required expertise to transform diesel vehicles into electric vehicles, and such technology is the need of the hour for Karnataka. Over 50 Taiwanese investors were present at the meeting, facilitated by Taiwan India Business Association.

Bribe: Head constable trapped

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police arrested a head constable posted at Peenya police station when he was collecting a bribe from a land owner. The accused police personnel,

Mare Gowda N., had allegedly demanded ₹3 lakh from the land owner to provide protection to his site, after some individuals were distrupting the construction of the building.

The Lokayukta police said the constable initially demanded ₹3 lakh to provide protection but later settled for ₹1.5 lakh.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUL. 01	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:50
RISE 16:48	SET 03:27
SUNDAY, JUL. 02	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:50
RISE 17:53	SET 04:23
MONDAY, JUL. 03	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 18:59	SET 05:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	22
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain or thunder-shower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain or thunder-shower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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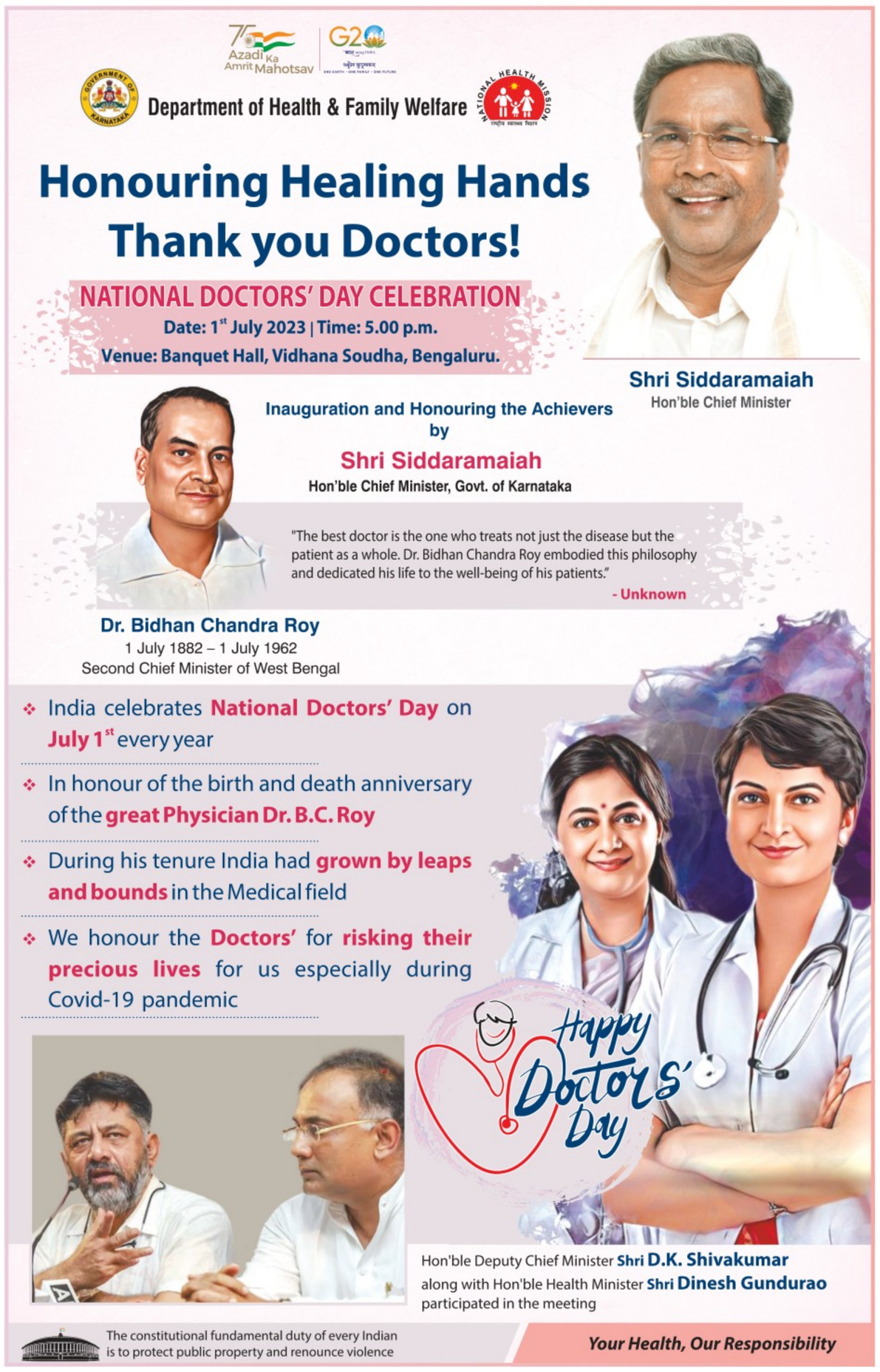

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Citizens can now report cybercrimes at any police station: City Police Commissioner

Anybody who is a victim of cybercrime should ideally first call the CIR helpline 1930 or Namma 112 within the golden hour, says Dayananda

#THTALKSBENGALURU

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Citizens can now walk into any police station and report a cybercrime. Presently, they are being directed to the divisional Cybercrime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) police stations in the city.

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, speaking at the #THTalksBengaluru series on Friday, said a decision in this regard had been taken to reduce a load of cybercrime cases at CEN stations which are overwhelmed with thousands of cases, stretching the resources very thin.

Bengaluru tops the chart of cities in the number of cybercrime cases registered for many years now. Karnataka Home Department, responding to a question raised in the Assembly recently, said that citizens of the State lost nearly ₹1 crore to cybercrimes every day in 2022.

Call 1930 or 112

"We have now created a very layered approach to cybercrime probes, which will hopefully help," Mr. Dayananda said. The first line of response to cybercrime is the Cyber Information Report (CIR) initiative. Anybody who is a victim of cybercrime should ideally first call the CIR helpline 1930 or Namma 112, within the golden hour, where officials will try to freeze the account to where the money swindled is transferred. Chances of retrieving the lost money is higher with CIR, which was pioneered by the city police and is now being replicated across the country, he said.

"Anybody can walk into any law and order police station and report a cybercrime. These stations have been directed to register FIRs and investigate these cases on their own. They can either take the assistance of CEN police stations or transfer the case to them, only if the cases are complex and are beyond their means. The dedicated Cybercrime Police Station at the Commissioner's Office will probe far more complex cases with wider implications. This way there will be more dedicated resources to probe cybercrimes," said Mr. Dayananda.

For capacity building

The Commissioner also added that there were several initiatives being taken for capacity building within the police force to catch up with the advancements in technology and the changing nature of crimes.

"From bloody crimes, we have now moved towards bloodless, borderless and faceless crimes, which pose unique challenges," he said. "Of late, many of those joining the force are very educated and tech-savvy, which is an asset. We need to train them constantly. For instance, we are playing catch up on aspects of darknet," he said.

Fielding questions: City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda during #THTalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers, on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

'Tough to enforce silent zones'

City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said enforcement of 'No honking' silent zones was tough. "Presently, nearly 97% of traffic enforcement is contactless. But silent zones cannot be enforced through cameras. A policeman needs to be present at these zones to book cases for these violations. This will need huge manpower on the ground, or there has to be a technological upgrade. Till then it is tough to enforce them," he said.

The Commissioner said while police responded to several complaints of loud music being played every night, they had now decided to book FIRs against repeat offenders. Responding to a reader's question requesting a crackdown on the use of megaphones by pushcart hawkers, he said he would look into the same and see if the police or the civic body was the right authority for the same.

'Drugs, a societal problem'

Narcotics is not just a policing problem but a societal problem, said City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda. He said apart from the easy availability of drugs, the acceptability of drugs among the young and teenagers was alarming. "There is peer pressure among children today to use drugs. When we cracked down on the sale of tobacco near schools and colleges, we found even drugs were being sold there. So we have taken up an outreach programme to all schools and colleges, educating students about the ill effects of drug abuse. In fact, after this outreach programme, our officers have started getting better inputs about drug use on campuses and nearby," he said.

Women's police stations in every division soon

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

There will be a women's police station in every division soon, up from the existing two stations in the city, said Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said.

Participating in #THTalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers on Friday, he said women's safety is the priority area for the BCP, and they have many initiatives which they are making women aware of.

"Now, we have plans of opening a women's police station in every division, like we have a cybercrime police station in every DCP division, as the number of complaints from women is increasing. Under the Safe City Project, CCTV cameras have been put up at 4,100 locations in the first phase, and the second phase is coming up. It is an ongoing project. Around 7,500 cameras will be put up across the city by the BCP," he said, adding that safety islands are also there now wherein you press a button and the police come to the victim's assistance. The investigation process will be much faster, he said.

The women's police station at Basavanagudi. FILE PHOTO

Strengthening the force

He acknowledged that the police force in the city, with a population of nearly 1.3 crore, is short-staffed, more so compared to other metro cities in India. "We have been approaching the government, and the government has also been responsive," he said, adding that this year, over 2,000 new posts have been sanctioned for Bengaluru alone, which will be filled in the next two years.

Asked about policing the ever-expanding city that is Bengaluru, Mr. Dayananda said, "We are not much in favour of opening new police stations, which have a lot of overhead costs. We want to strengthen existing stations where there is a heavy load of law and order issues and crime. We are creating more women police stations. Now we have only two in the city. New traffic police stations are also being opened."

Using technology

Mr. Dayananda said apart from increasing the staff strength at existing stations – including border areas of the city as rural police stations have far fewer staff – technology is a great force multiplier as far as policing is concerned.

"Every CCTV camera is like a policeman on the ground. It is not just CCTV cameras that we have got under the Safe City Project, which is around 7,500. There are many CCTV cameras put up by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, MLAs, councillors, and at the police station level. Under the Public Safety Act, all business establishments are supposed to put up cameras. We are trying to pool in all these which will act as a force multiplier and help in better policing," Mr. Dayananda said.

Improving image

Expanding on the efforts to make the police's image more approachable and friendly, he said Bengaluru is a global destination and cosmopolitan city. "Our policemen, especially the younger ones, are well educated as well as tech-savvy. Our social media team is very strong. They are engaging with the community and there is no barrier with reference to language."

'Flyovers, signal-free corridors do not solve traffic congestion'

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

"Flyovers and signal-free corridors do not solve traffic congestion in the city. In fact, there is a concept that the provision of such infrastructure will invite more traffic onto these corridors and lead to congestion eventually. Flyovers will mostly shift the bottleneck from one junction to another," said Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, adding that interventions to decongest city streets need a much deeper understanding of urban mobility and experts' advice.

His comments gain significance as he is also in charge of the city's traffic, and the city's civic body is working on 11 new flyovers approved last year and is presently under review by the new government.

Mr. Dayananda batted for city traffic police inputs to be taken while planning any road infrastructure for the city.

"There are mechanisms where we give our inputs. But sometimes, the civic body does certain things without our knowledge, and we need to sort it out at higher levels. That process is ongoing," he said.

A file photo of Hebbal flyover.

Unscientific speed breakers

For instance, he said the city traffic police has taken up a survey of unscientific speed breakers across the city and will provide that list to the civic body. "We want speed breakers to be installed only on the suggestion and approval of the traffic police in the city," he said.

Responding to a question on whether odd-even vehicle restrictions as imposed in New Delhi was a solution to decongest the city, he said an earlier study taken up in 2015, when he was Additional Commissioner (Traffic), found it was not feasible for the city, adding that there had been no new proposal for the same.

Speaking of dangerous wheeling on the city streets, Mr. Dayananda said that they were now not only recommending the cancellation of the driver's licence of such offenders but also writing to the Transport Department to cancel the Registration Certificate (RC) of the vehicle, as there are modifications made to these vehicles in contravention of norms. Once the RC of a vehicle is cancelled, they cannot come to the road. He also added that if minors are found to be wheeling on the streets, the vehicle owners and their parents will be held accountable.

He also said that it was important to inculcate a traffic sense among children to bring about a slow change in road user behaviour. "We want traffic and road safety to be included in primary and high school levels as they are the ones who will take to the streets in the future. We want to create a situation where a child points out to his/her parents that they are not wearing a helmet or a seat belt," he said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, MRS. Parimala Parthasarathy mother of Vishal Ananth Ramesh Residing at No.205, 6th Main Road, Vyalikaval, Bangalore- 560003. My Son's Name in his Passport should be read as given Name Vishal and surname Ananth Ramesh. Refer affidavit dated. 26-06-2023 sworn before Notary B.R.Shashikala, Bangalore.

I, GAYATHRI W/o. Srinivasa Murthy.PK, No.6/195, 2nd Cross, 2nd Stage, Kirloskar Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bluru-79 have changed my name to Gayathri Murthy vide affidavit dt.30.06.23 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru

I, PAVITHRA Munikrishnappa W/o.Sunilkumar.S, No.12, New Airport, Kadayarapanahalli, B.K.Halli Post, Bluru-562149 have changed my name to Pavithra Sunilkumar vide Affiavit dt.30.06.23 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru

I, DEEPA Nagaraja, DOB: February 9th 1985, D/o Mr. Nagaraja Narayan and Mrs.Kasturi Raj, present resident of 6 Gleneagle CT, Pueblo Colorado 81001, USA and Indian address No. 98 15th Cross, Gayatri Devi park Extension, Vyalikaval, Bangalore-560003, here by declare that I am splitting my name as given name/First name as Deepa and surname/Last name as Nagaraja,vide affidavit dated 28-06-2023, before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14. Ph: 9447320640

E-TENDER NOTICE

E2-56/22 1.7.2023

Online bids are invited by Oushadhi from eligible bidders for executing the following works: **Name of work:** Piping and allied works for Oil & Lehyam Plant and Raw Material Washing & Drying Facility at Oushadhi, Kuttanellur. **Tender No:** OUSHADHI/KITCO/MH/01/2023. **Contact:** 9447320640 Manager (Works). For further tendering process please visit the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** from **1.7.2023.**

(Sd/-) Managing Director

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-59)
O.S. No. 6384/2022

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. K Jagan Mohan Reddy ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. K Jagan Mohan Reddy, S/o. Konda Rama Chandra Reddy, Aged About 27 Years, R/at No.45, 17th Cross, 4th Main, Kumarswamy Layout, Near Water Tank, Bangalore-560078.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.19,39,890.40/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LVIII Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-59), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 24/08/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **19th** day of **June, 2023** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE: EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT. AT: PITHAPURAM.
I.A.No. 1087 OF 2022 IN O.S. NO. 14 OF 2022

Between:-
Smt. Koka Dyumani
...Petitioner/ Plaintiff
AND
Sri Koka Rama Subrahamanyam & 16 others.
...Respondents/Defendants

To,
Smt Madireddi Vani, W/o M. Ragahvendra Manikumar, Age 37 years,Occ: Housewife, R/o D.No. 177, Om Sakthi Nilayam, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Satellite Club, Bangalore South, Karnataka State.

Take notice that the above said I.A.No.1087 of 2022 in O.S. No.14 of 2022 is field by the petitioner /plaintiff filed against you for restraining you from alienating the petition schedule properties and you are hereby summoned to appear in this court either person or through an Advocate on **13.7.2023** at 10.30a.m. to answer the suit, failing which the suit will be decided exparte.

[AS PER THE COURT ORDER]
Sd/- **CH. OMER NATHAN,**
Advocate
Nathan's Law Firm
H.No:10-3-64, 65, Flat No: G-3, Jewel Residency, Teachers Colony, Maredpally, Secunderabad-500026.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE: EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT. AT: PITHAPURAM.
O.S. NO. 14 OF 2022

Between:-
Smt. Koka Dyumani ...Plaintiff
AND
Sri Koka Rama Subrahamanyam & 16 others. ...Defendants

To,
Smt Madireddi Vani, W/o M. Ragahvendra Manikumar, Age 37 years,Occ: Housewife, R/o D.No. 177, Om Sakthi Nilayam, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Satellite Club, Bangalore South, Karnataka State.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed the above suit against you for Partition and Declaration you are hereby summoned to appear in this court either person or through an Advocate on **13.7.2023** at 10.30a.m. to answer the suit, failing which the suit will be decided exparte.

[AS PER THE COURT ORDER]
Sd/- **CH. OMER NATHAN,**
Advocate
Nathan's Law Firm
H.No:10-3-64, 65, Flat No: G-3, Jewel Residency, Teachers Colony, Maredpally, Secunderabad-500026.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF XXXIX ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-40)
O. S. NO. 358/2021
HG 02.08.2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore-560025, and branch office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Rangaswami Arlagadda ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
1. Rangaswami Arlagadda S/o. Ramudu Arlagadda Aged about 34 Years, No. 13, Sri Sravya Building, 2nd Cross, Near H.P. Gas Agency, Ramanjaneyulu Layout, Marathahalli, Bengaluru- 560037

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.4,92,954.00/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **XXXIX Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-40),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of 02/08/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 26th day of June 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B. S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01,

LEGAL NOTICE

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, B.S.N.L. BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU- 560001
OA. NO. 923/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI BANK LIMITED, Having its branch Office at The Senate IBC, Ulsoor Road Yellappa Garden, Yellappa chetty Layout, Sivachetti Garden, Bengaluru- 560 008.
...APPLICANT

AND :
1. Mr. KAPIL DEV TIWARI, Aged about 50 years, (DOB : 13/10/1972) Son of Ram Kalap Tiwari, No. 27, 6th Ward Scout Camp Road, Near Railway Station, Doddaballapur, Near Karnataka Bank ATM, Karnataka- 561203
ALSO AT:- MR. KAPIL DEV TIWARI, Villa- Railway Purab Pure, Jagdatt Post, Aligant Bazar, Kurwar Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh- 227805
...DEFENDANTS

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 23,57,285.44/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five Paisa Forty Four Only)** together with current and future interest and other relief's. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **11/09/2023** at **10.30 A.M.,** as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this the **19th day** of **May, 2023.**

Asst. Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I
Bangalore

Businessman loses ₹52 lakh to Bitcoin fraud

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The businessman was told to transfer money to various bank accounts. GETTY IMAGES

A 39-year-old businessman lost over ₹52 lakh after participating in a cryptocurrency exchange task. He pledged gold, withdrew a fixed deposit, used business overdraft and borrowed money from friends to pay the fraudsters. An FIR was registered at South East CEN Crime Police Station.

Nalagani Gururaju runs two hair salons at Electronics City in Bengaluru. On May 29, an unknown person [phone number +1(6292742279)] contacted him on WhatsApp and asked him to take up a part-time job subscribing to YouTube channels. Gururaju was promised ₹50 each for subscribing to multiple YouTube channels. Gururaju subscribed to three channels after clicking on the links sent by the unknown person. He received ₹150 in his bank account.

Later, he was added to a Telegram group which included four members who were talking about crypto tasks. An admin of the group sent details of various packages to invest money in buying and selling Bitcoins (BTC).

Members were sending several messages and photos. The text on one photo shared on the group stated: Real Time Task Availability – Pay ₹30,000 and withdraw ₹43,500, or pay ₹9,69,000 and withdraw ₹13,08,150, or pay ₹6,28,000 and withdraw ₹9,10,600.

Gururaju was told to open an account on a website to transact in Bitcoins. The website was similar to that of a popular crypto exchange site bitFlyer.

"In the Telegram group, other members were sharing screenshots of money received in their account. This made me confident about going ahead with the tasks," he told *The Hindu*.

Gururaju sent money to 7 accounts. The fraudsters, who were posing as BTC brokers.

Gururaju had transferred ₹52 lakh to the accounts. He had over ₹65 lakh after including the profit.

Although Gururaju could see profits growing in the account, he could not withdraw the money.

When he asked the admin of the Telegram group to allow him to withdraw the money, the admin claimed that he could withdraw his money if he paid tax. Gururaju entered into a personal chat with the admin and requested return of his money. The admin allegedly admitted that the whole scheme was a fraud and told him to pay ₹3 lakh more to join the group, and become a partner. The admin claimed they work from Mumbai.

Gururaju is now bankrupt. He does not have money even to pay the salaries of his salon staff. He approached the bank with his complaint. The bank was unable to recover the money transferred by Gururaju to the accounts of the fraudsters, which had been opened in private banks in Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

SSLC supplementary examination results

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 46,270 students out of 1,11,781, who appeared for the supplementary SSLC examinations, passed. The results were announced on Friday.

The pass percentage this year is 41.39, a two percentage point climb from last year. The pass percentage of girls is 45.67%, and boys 38.95%.

The supplementary examinations were held between June 12 and June 19 in 458 examination centres across Karnataka.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients Mr. Farhan Taher, S/o. Taher Wahid and his wife Smt. Afshan Farhan, W/o Farhan Tahir, residing at No.14/15, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Jayamahal Extension, Benson Town, Bangalore., have disown all their relations with their son Rayyan Farhan, due to unavoidable circumstance. Both of my clients above named have also disowned and debarred their said son from all their moveable and immoveable properties. Anybody dealing with Rayyan Farhan will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Rayyan Farhan.

Sd/-
Advocates
Syed Khaleel Pasha,
Chandra Mouli, GM Jyothi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sri Lokesh Rao M. S/o. late Sri Manjunath Rao and **Smt. Chaitra S.** W/o. Sri Lokesh Rao M. R/a No.31, 7th Cross, Moodalapalya, Bangalore-560072 seeking loan from Canara Bank, Ramasandra Branch, Bangalore for the purpose of purchase of schedule property representing that the original allotment letter dated 22.10.2019 issued by the BDA to **Smt. Pushpavathi M. G.** is lost by her. Notice hereby given to general public calling upon them to file objections with undersigned if any for creation of mortgage of the schedule property to the said Canara Bank within **SEVEN days** from this day, failing which mortgage will be created for the loan amount

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.668.** PID No. 6000070488 (in Sy. No.13/3 of Ramasandra Village) formed by the BDA situated at **4th Block, Sir M. Visveshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore,** measuring east to west 12.00 mtrs. and north to south 9.00 mtrs, in total **108.00 sq. mtrs,** and bounded as follows::

East by : Road, West by : Site No.655
North by : Site No.669, South by : Site No.667

B. Gopalakrishna Adiga, Advocate, #616, 1st Floor, 2nd Main Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060
Place: Bangalore **Date:** 30/06/2023

IN THE COURT OF THE 83rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS (COMMERCIAL COURT) JUDGE (CCH-84) AT BENGALURU

COMM O.S. No. 1432/2022

Between : Sreelakshmi Kottu & Others ...PLAINTIFFS

And: M/s. Elena Geo Systems Private Limited & Others ...DEFENDANTS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT No. 5 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1-A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 1908

To,

Defendant No. 5 : Mr. Jayawant Shivaji Patil, Major, Father's name unknown Shareholder of M/s. Elena Geo Systems Private Limited, 62/1, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Ganganagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560032.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiffs have filed a suit seeking declaratory reliefs against the Defendants relating to the Plaintiffs' investment and position as Director in the Defendant Company. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court **on 15th day July of 2023 at 11:00 AM** in person or by pleader to answer the questions to the same, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 28.06.2023.

By Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Address of the Advocate for Plaintiffs:
Lakshmi Menon, Advocate
No. 33, First Floor, High Grounds, Bangalore - 560 001.

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1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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Directorate of Economics and Statistics
1st Gate, 7th Floor, M. S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore - 560 001
Phone: 080-22353849, E-Mail: desadmkar@gmail.com

No. DES/Stores/11/2023-24 Dt: 01.07.2023

INVITATION FOR e-PROCUREMENT BID

HIRING OF MANPOWER FOR EJANMA SOFTWARE IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR/ CHIEF REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS, DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS THROUGH SKILLED MANPOWER UNDER E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

(A) SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Tender Reference Notification	No. DES/Stores/11/2023-24 Dt: 01.07.2023
Commencement of download of e-tender forms from **website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	**01.07.2023.**
Last Date for Queries on or before: For queries contact **Dr. V. Muniraju,** Joint Director (Admin), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 1st Gate, 7th Floor, M. S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. Contact No.: 080 - 2235 3849	**04.07.2023 at 5.30 p.m.**
Last date and time for uploading of tender documents on e-Procurement platform on or before:	**10.07.2023 at 5.30 p.m.**
Time and date of opening of Technical Bid:	**14.07.2023 at 11.00 a.m.**
Time and date of opening of Financial Bid:	**17.07.2023 at 11.00 a.m.**
Venue of opening of tenders and Address for communication:	O/o **Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, 1st Gate, 7th Floor, M. S. Building, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560 001.**
EMD Amount:	**Rs.80,000/-.**
APPROXIMATE PROJECT AMOUNT :	**Rs.40,00,000/-.**

Note: All communications regarding this "Tender" should carry the Tender Notification No.DES/Stores/11/2023-24, **Dated:** 01.07.2023

Opening of Technical / Financial Bid: Financial bid of only those responsive tenderers of Technical bid will be opened on a date notified or on any further dates to be notified/ informed to the responsive bidders.

Sd/-
Director,
Directorate of Economics and Statistics

DIPR/CP/RO412/AAPL/2023-24

भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन / INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनंतपुरम / Thiruvananthapuram - 695 022

विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी-327 दिनांक 01.07.2023
ADVERTISEMENT NO. VSSC-327 DATED 01.07.2023

विविध इसरो केंद्रो में निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए ऑन–लाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है
INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS IN VARIOUS ISRO CENTRES

पद एवं वेतन स्तरः वैज्ञानिक / इंजीनियर-एसडी [स्तर 11 (₹ 67,700/- – ₹ 2,08,700/-)]
Post & Pay Level : Scientist / Engineer-SD [Level 11 (₹ 67,700/- – ₹ 2,08,700/-)]

क्र. सं. Sl. No.	पद सं. Post No.	अनिवार्य योग्यताएं Essential Qualifications	पदों की सं No. of posts
1	1503	वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान या अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान या ग्रहीय विज्ञान के क्षेत्रों में पीएच.डी Ph.D in the areas of Atmospheric Science OR Space Science OR Planetary Science	02
2	1504	धातु योजनी निर्माण में विशेषज्ञता के साथ यांत्रिक इंजीनियरी में पीएच.डी Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering with specialization in Metal Additive Manufacturing	01
3	1505	प्रयोगात्मक शीत परमाणु में पीएच.डी / Ph.D in Experimental cold atoms	01

पद एवं वेतन स्तरः वैज्ञानिक / इंजीनियर-एससी [स्तर 10 (₹ 56,100/- – ₹ 1,77,500/-)]
Post & Pay Level : Scientist / Engineer-SC [Level 10 (₹ 56,100/- – ₹ 1,77,500/-)]

क्र. सं. Sl. No.	पद सं. Post No.	अनिवार्य योग्यताएं Essential Qualifications	पदों की सं No. of posts
4	1506	मशीन अभिकल्पना या अनुप्रयुक्त यांत्रिकी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Machine Design OR Applied Mechanics	01
5	1507	मशीन अभिकल्पना या मशीन गतिकी या संरचनात्मक गतिकी या ठोस यांत्रिकी या अभिकलनात्मक एवं प्रयोगात्मक ठोस यांत्रिकी में विशेषज्ञता के साथ यांत्रिक इंजीनियरी एवं अनुप्रयुक्त यांत्रिकी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Mechanical Engineering OR Applied Mechanics with specialization in Machine Design OR Machine Dynamics OR Structural Dynamics OR Solid Mechanics OR Computational and Experimental Solid Mechanics	04
6	1508	नोदन इंजीनियरी या वांतरिक्ष इंजीनियरी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Propulsion Engineering OR Aerospace Engineering	02
7	1509	धातुकर्मीय इंजीनियरी या धातुकर्मीय एवं पदार्थ इंजीनियरी या पदार्थ विज्ञान इंजीनियरी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Metallurgical Engineering OR Metallurgical & Materials Engineering OR Material Science Engineering	02
8	1510	रासायनिक इंजीनियरी या रासायनिक प्रौद्योगिकी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Chemical Engineering OR Chemical Technology	01
9	1511	नियंत्रण इंजीनियरी या नियंत्रण एवं यंत्रीकरण या नियंत्रण निर्देशन एवं नौसंचालन में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Control Engineering OR Control & Instrumentation OR Control Guidance and navigation	01
10	1512	रसायन विज्ञान (सामान्य रसायन विज्ञान) में एम.एससी M.Sc. in Chemistry (General Chemistry)	04
11	1513	माइक्रो इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी या वीएलएसआइ अभिकल्पना या वीएलएसआइ एवं अंतःस्थापित प्रणाली अभिकल्पना या वीएलएसआइ एवं माइक्रो प्रणालियां या अवकल परिपथ एवं प्रणालियां या माइक्रो इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी एवं वीएलएसआइ अभिकल्पना में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Micro Electronics OR VLSI Design OR VLSI & Embedded System Design OR VLSI & Micro systems OR Integral Circuits and Systems OR Microelectronics & VLSI Design	10
12	1514	पावर इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी या पावर प्रणाली इंजीनियरी या पावर इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी एवं ड्राइव या पावर नियंत्रण एवं ड्राइव या पावर एवं औद्योगिक ड्राइव में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Power Electronics OR Power Systems Engineering OR Power Electronics & Drives OR Power Control & Drives OR Power & Industrial Drives	03
13	1515	आरएफ इंजीनियरी या माइक्रोवेव इंजीनियरी या रेडार इंजीनियरी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in RF Engineering OR Microwave Engineering OR Radar Engineering	03
14	1516	औद्योगिक इंजीनियरी या औद्योगिक इंजीनियरी एवं प्रबंधन या औद्योगिक एवं उत्पादन इंजीनियरी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Industrial Engineering OR Industrial Engineering and Management OR Industrial and Production Engineering	06
15	1517	इंडस्ट्रियल संरक्षा इंजीनियरी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Industrial Safety Engineering	04
16	1518	निर्माण इंजीनियरी या उत्पादन इंजीनियरी में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Manufacturing Engineering OR Production Engineering	04
17	1519	अविनाशी परीक्षण में एम.ई / एम.टेक M.E / M.Tech in Non-Destructive Testing (NDT)	02
18	1520	रासायनिक इंजीनियरी या रसायन विज्ञान एवं विद्युत रासायनिक इंजीनियरी या रासायनिक विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी या रासायनिक प्रौद्योगिकी में बी.ई / बी.टेक B.E / B.Tech in Chemical Engineering OR Chemical & Electrochemical Engineering OR Chemical Science & Technology OR Chemical Technology	10

उपर्युक्त में से, निम्नलिखित रिक्तियां बेंचमार्क अशक्तताओं से युक्त व्यक्तियों (पीडब्ल्यूबीडी) के लिए आरक्षित हैं।
Out of above, the following vacancies are reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilites (PwBD)

क्र. सं. Sl. No.	पद सं. Post No.	पीडब्ल्यूबीडी आरक्षण श्रेणी PwBD Reservation category	पदों की सं No. of posts
1	1512	एलसी, डीडब्ल्यू, एएवी सहित एलडी (ओए, ओएल, बीएल, ओएएल) / LD (OA, OL, BL, OAL) including LC, Dw, AAV	01
2	1513	सीपी, एलसी, डीडब्ल्यू, एएवी सहित एलडी (ओएल) / LD (OL) including CP, LC, Dw, AAV	01
3	1520	एचएच / HH	02
		एलसी, डीडब्ल्यू, एएवी सहित एलडी (ओए, ओएल, बीएल, ओएएल) / LD (OA, OL, BL, OAL) including LC, Dw, AAV	01
संक्षिप्त–रूप Abbreviations		पीडब्ल्यूबीडी = बेंचमार्क अशक्तताओं से युक्त व्यक्ति, एलडी–गतिशील विकलांगता, ओए– एक भुजा, ओएल–एक पैर, बीएल–दोनों पैर, ओएएल – एक भुजा एवं एक पैर, एलसी–कुष्ठरोग से मुक्त, डीडब्ल्यू–बौनापन, एएवी–एसिड अटैक पीड़ित, सीपी–सेरिब्रल पाल्सी, एचएच– जिसे कम सुनाई पड़ता है। PwBD - Persons with Benchmark Disabilites, LD - Locomotor Disability, OA - One Arm, OL - One Leg, BL - Both Leg, OAL - One Arm and One Leg, LC - Leprosy Cured, Dw - Dwarfism, AAV - Acid Attack Victims, CP - Cerebral Palsy, HH - Hard of Hearing.	

विस्तृत विज्ञापन वीएसएससी वेबसाइट ***https://www.vssc.gov.in*** में दिया जाएगा। अभ्यर्थियों को सलाह दी जाती है कि पद सं., वेतन स्तर, अनिवार्य योग्यता(ओं), आयु सीमा, आरक्षण, प्रत्येक विधा में पदों की संख्या, कार्य की प्रकृति तथा विशेष टिप्पणियों, यदि कोई है तो, के लिए विस्तृत विज्ञापन देखें।

Detailed advertisement will be hosted in VSSC website https://www.vssc.gov.in. Candidates are advised to go through the advertisement for Essential Qualification(s) at Graduate (Pre-requisite) & Post Graduate level, Age limit, Centre of Posting, Nature of job etc. Compliance to pre-requisite qualifications mentioned against each post is mandatory.

1. उपर्युक्त पदों के लिए आवेदन केवल ऑन–लाइन प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। Applications for the above posts will be received on-line only.
2. ऑन–लाइन आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए वेबसाइट **दिनांक 05.07.2023** को **1000** बजे से **दिनांक 21.07.2023** को **1700 बजे** तक खुला रहेगा / The website will be open for submission of on-line application from **1000 hours** on **05.07.2023** to **1700 hours** on **21.07.2023**.

"सरकार एक ऐसे कार्यबल का प्रयास करती है जो लिंग संतुलन की अभिव्यक्ति करता है तथा महिला उम्मीदवारों को आवेदन देने हेतु प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।"
"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply".

13 killed, 22 injured in two road accidents

While seven members of a family from Ballari city were killed in Vijayanagara district, six persons from Aland taluk of Kalaburagi district died in Solapur district of Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The mangled remains of an autorickshaw that was involved in an accident near Waddarhalli bridge in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district on Friday. SRIDHAR KAVALI

Thirteen persons were killed and 22 were injured in two road accidents on Friday. While seven members of a family from Ballari city were killed in an accident in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district, six persons from Aland taluk of Kalaburagi district were killed in an accident in Solapur district of Maharashtra.

Seven members of a family, including five women, were killed on the spot and 12 sustained severe injuries after the two autorickshaws they were travelling in were hit by a lorry near Waddarhalli Bridge in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district on Friday.

All the victims were residents of Gautam Nagar, near Cowl Bazaar, in Ballari city. The deceased have been identified as Safura Bi, 50, her daughters Kausar, 35, and Yasmeen, 28, her son-in-law Ibrahim, her grandson Zaheer, 4, and Shamma, 37, a relative. The identity of the other victim, one of the autorickshaw drivers, is yet to be ascertained.

The police said 19 members of the family were travelling in two autorickshaws. The impact of the accident was such that one autorickshaw was crushed under the lorry and the other rolled down a deep gorge. Local people came to help and pulled out those trapped in the autorickshaws. District incharge Minister B. Nagendra said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the victims and ₹50,000 each to those injured in the accident.

Collision

Six persons, including a child, were killed and 10 people were injured when the multi-utility vehicle they were travelling in, collided with a container near Shirwal Wadi in Akkalkot taluk of Solapur district of Maharashtra on Friday.

According to sources, the deceased were identified as Ratna Bai, 75, Rohini Gopal Pujari, 45, Lalitha Bai Bugge, 48, Sudara Bai Rajput, 38, and Sai Govind Pujari, 12. The identity of another deceased is yet to be ascertained.

KSOU proposes to start online courses; UGC nod awaited

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

For the first time, Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, has proposed to introduce online courses beginning this year.

With the KSOU getting an 'A' plus accreditation from NAAC, it has become eligible to introduce online courses in addition to regular open distance learning (ODL) programmes.

Vice-Chancellor Sharanappa V. Halse told reporters here that the KSOU has become qualified to launch 10 PG courses and three UG courses in online mode and a proposal in this regard had been sent to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for approval.

"We are confident of getting the UGC nod for online courses in the July cycle admissions. We have chosen courses under online mode that are popular and in demand," he replied. The VC said the UGC has granted permission for 39 new academic programmes out of 51 courses for which the recognition was sought and 12 remaining programmes are being considered. "The recognition for courses is for a period of five years since the NAAC accreditation is valid for a period of five years," he said.

Prof. Halse added, "They (UGC) has sought clarifications with regard to 12 courses that await permission. "

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahad Road Project Division, Mahad-Raigad.
Email :- mahad.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Ph.No. 02145 222243
Tender Notice No.10 for 2023-24

Online percentage rate tenders in B-1 Form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Road Project Division Mahad, District Raigad 402301 for the following works from Contractors registered in appropriate class of the Public Works Department of Mahatashtra State. The name of work, estimated cost, earnest money, security deposit, time limit for completion etc. The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtta e-tendering Portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in** as under.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rupees)	Work Portion Cost (Part-A) (Rupees)	Bid Security (E.M.D.) (Rupees) via Offline	Cost of Tender Form. (Rupees) via Offline	Period of completion of work (including monsoon)	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Birwadi Manghrun Wagholi Road Tal Mahad Dist Raigad.	114643586.00	110568145.70	574000.00	3540/-	24 (Month)	N.A.
2	Construction of Hodgaon Tamhane Kadapur Gharoshi Road Tal Mangaon Dist Raigad.	31408590.00	30873095.34	158000.00	2360/-	12 (Month)	N.A.

Sehedule

Seq. No.	Stage	Start Date	Start Time	Expiry Date	Expiry Time
1	Penod of online sale & online Submission of bid documents	30/06/2023	10.00	14/07/2023	18.00
2	Pre Bid meeting in the Office of the Chief Engineer, (P.W.) Region, Konkan, Baudhkam Bhavan, 25 Murzaban Road, Fort, Mumbai- 01.	04/07/2023	15.00		
3	Onine opening of Technical bid & Price bid (If possible) in Offrce of the Supertending Engineer, Raigad (P.W) Circle, Kokan Bhavan, Navi Mumbai.	17/07/2023	12.00		

Note: Bid documents are available on **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
(M. R. Namde)
Executive Engineer
Road Project Division, Mahad

DGIPR/2023-2024/1821

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annexe Building-1, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002
Form-III

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/685/2023-24 **Date: 27.06.2023**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Name and Address of the Public Authority) for development of **Widening and Improvement of road from Vijayanagara (Gandipura) main road to Veeraswamy Reddy Layout via White Acre as per RMP-2015 24.00 Mtr width** for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015.

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued

Name of the District: Bengaluru Urban. Name of the Taluk : Bengaluru East. Name of the Village: Pattanduri Agrahara

Sl. No.	Sy. No. Khatha No.	Type of land: Vacant	Type of land: Built up	Nature of land: Agriculture	Nature of land: Converted Undeveloped	Nature of land: Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension of the land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.mt: Dimension	Dimension of the land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.mt: Extent	Boundaries of the land/Plot: East	West	North	South	Building Details: Extent in Sq.M	Building Details: Type of Construction and No. of floors	Building Details: Floor Area	Present Activity on Land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, factory, Apartment, Individual House etc.)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for which DRC is to be issued
1	Khatha No: 2909 / 2909 Sy. No. 167/79/1	Vacant			Converted Residential Purpose		126.46 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Sy. No. 165	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	M/s. Credence Holdings, Rep. by Proprietor Sri. Sushilkumar S. Patil, Flat-S-3, Block-B, Reliance Mansions, Hariram Alidas Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.
2	Khatha No: 2912 / 2912 Sy. No. 167/82/1						131.52 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	
3	Khatha No: 2913 / 2913 Sy. No. 167/83/1						128.49 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	
4	Khatha No: 2911 / 2911 Sy. No. 167/81/1	Vacant			Converted Residential Purpose		123.43 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	M/s. Credence Holdings, Rep. by Proprietor Sri. Sushilkumar S. Patil, Flat-S-3, Block-B, Reliance Mansions, Hariram Alidas Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.
5	Khatha No: 2907 / 2907 Sy. No. 167/77/1						102.29 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	
6	Khatha No: 2910 / 2910 Sy. No. 167/80/1						96.99 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	
7	Khatha No: 2905 / 2905 Sy. No. 167/75/1	Vacant			Converted Residential Purpose		91.69 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	M/s. Credence Holdings, Rep. by Proprietor Sri. Sushilkumar S. Patil, Flat-S-3, Block-B, Reliance Mansions, Hariram Alidas Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.
8	Khatha No: 2914 / 2914 Sy. No. 167/84/1						86.40 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	
9	Khatha No: 2908 / 2908 Sy. No. 167/78/1						81.10 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	
10	Khatha No: 4473 / 4473 Sy. No. 167/329/1						35.84 Sqm		Nagondanahalli village Boundry	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 166	Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 167	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	36,200/-	

Objections and suggestions may be submitted at the address specified below :

Name of address of the Divisional/ Sub Divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR), Room No.: 107, 1st Floor, Annex Building - 3 , N. R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore - 560 002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

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THE HINDU

Rohtak dome

An eco-friendly option, it has been popular for many years but has started losing ground due to modern technologies, says **Sathya Prakash Varanashi**

COVER

Place-based names are common in India, popularly with food items like Mysore Pak or Tirunelveli Halwa. Much lesser known are in the construction industry; though Mangalore roofing tiles are well known and Athangudi flooring tiles are generally known, common people rarely hear Rohtak domes.

The dome on Earth, the sky, could have been the first inspiration for humans to try building a hemispherical structure. With stability due to its circular form in the plan and the half-ball profile, which transfers load seamlessly to the plan, it is a perfect solution for long-lasting roofs. These domes have been popular for thousands of years but have started losing ground due to modern technologies.

Domes had to be modernised with simpler methods, faster speed, cheaper cost and easier operation. Rohtak domes precisely did all of them, thanks to the family from Rohtak in Haryana who revived a local craft and kept the skills alive! Now members of this extended family travel around India building these domes on invitation.

Of course, domes are round, yet can be built on square or rectangular rooms also, which become round in plan after the corners get built first. The starting courses are very critical, where the bricks are kept at a certain angle on the ring beam, which is shaped like English L, so bricks will never slip down.

Thick and rich cement mortar help bonding bricks together, where the quality of the brick is important. Perforated bricks, if available, work better, creating a better joint connection between bricks. Unlike normal construction, where bricks are wetted before placing, here they are left dry, and the mortar needs more than normal water content to be absorbed by the bricks leading to better adhesiveness.

A Rohtak dome can be built on square or rectangular rooms also. MASTER MASON SONU AND SATHYA CONSULTANTS

It's amazing to see an expert mason simply starting and building the dome without any measurements or tools, except for marking the first course using a compass made by a thread, pivoted in the centre of the plan.

The inclination of bricks, hence the rise of the dome profile, is very less. Therefore, these are termed shallow or even flat domes.

Asking the masons does not get an exact number, but we can gauge about 6 inches rise for every 10 feet wide space or up to 9 inches for about 15 inches span. The upper part could be levelled to be used for another room there. The depth of the L beam, dome rise and the required levelling should be kept in mind while fixing the floor-to-roof height required.

The last small hole in the centre can be filled onsite by smaller bricks or a circular piece made earlier and inserted. Light and fan points will be fixed in advance, with electrical conduits running on top of the dome, where workers can walk upon without fear.

All these said, this dome-making cannot be taken up without training or structural beams designed by an engineer. Yet, this technique could be an alternative eco-friendly idea compared to high-resource consuming concrete roofs.

(The author is an architect working on eco-friendly designs. This is the second and last part in the series on Rohtak domes.)

It's amazing to see an expert mason simply starting and building the dome without any measurements or tools, except for marking the first course using a compass made by a thread, pivoted in the centre of the plan.

Thick and rich cement mortar helps in bonding bricks together. Perforated bricks create a better joint connection between bricks. MASTER MASON SONU AND SATHYA CONSULTANTS

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THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

CM invited to inaugurate three-day Youth Cong. meet

The Youth Congress delegation has invited Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to inaugurate the national programme "Behtar Bharat Buniyadi" to be held next month by the National Youth Congress. AICC joint secretary and youth Congress in charge, Krishna Alavaru, Youth Congress national president B.V. Srinivas and Rashtriya Yuva Congress general scretary, AICC member M.S Raksha Ramaiah met the Chief Minister and submitted a request. The conference is being held in Bangalore for three days and it aims to take youth power in the country in the right direction. Raksha Ramaiah said the conference being held as a prelude to the Lok Sabha polls would guide the youth group on various issues.

Women writers meet CM, seek special grant of ₹1 cr.

A delegation of the Karnataka Women Writers' Association appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to sanction a special grant of ₹1crore for its literary and cultural activities. Led by president H.L. Pushpa, the association members met Mr. Siddaramaiah and presented their demands, said a release. The delegation appealed that along with special grants, there should be more women representation in the academies and authorities. Appeal was also made to release the funds for "Nanna Kavithe-Nanna Song" project. Vasundhara Bhupathi, M.S. Ashadevi, B.T. Lalitha Nayak, and many other writers were in the delegation.

False cases registered against pastors will be reviewed: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah assured that the Constitutional rights of all communities, including Christians, in the State will be protected and given necessary protection. A delegation of Christian pastors and leaders of Christian organisations met him on Friday on behalf of the Indian Christian Forum at his home office Krishna and discussed various issues. Mr. Siddaramaiah said it had been decided that unconstitutional amendment brought to the Prohibition of Conversion Act will be withdrawn. He said false cases registered against the pastors under the Prohibition of Conversion Act will be reviewed. He promised that more grants will be provided to the community in the next Budget.

BEL receives orders worth ₹2,191 crore

Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) has received new defence and non-defence orders worth ₹2,191 crore. BEL said that the orders are for the supply of Long Range Guidance Kit with Warhead, Airborne V/UHF Jammer, Battlefield Surveillance Radar (Short Range) Upgrade, Missile Guidance Radar & Control Centre, Upgraded Radio Relay (F) with Data Modem Encryption Unit Mk II, Identify Friend or Foe Mk XII A, Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Sonar, and Spares. These orders are in addition to the ₹5,900 crore orders that have already been received. ith this, BEL has in all received orders to the tune of ₹8,091 crore till now in the financial year 2023-24.

Mudhol hound officially recognised as native Indian breed

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Mudhol hound, the majestic hunting dog breed from Karnataka, has entered the elite league of native breeds recognised by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), that documents all the animal and bird breeds in the country.

This is the first time the Mudhol hound has got official recognition from a government agency. All these years, the much sought-after dog breed was only recognised by private agencies such as kennel clubs. Along with Mudhol, Chippi Parayi, and Rajaplayam dog breeds have also been recognised as native Indian dog breeds.

The application for native breed recognition was made by the Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU).

"It is a matter of pride for all of us. Apart from establishing the identity of an Indian dog breed among internationally famous breeds, this certification is expected to increase its brand value in global markets and help dog breeders earn higher revenues," said K.V. Veeranna, V-C of the university.

KVAFSU Vice-Chancellor K.C. Veeranna, Director of Research B.V. Shivaprakash, and CRIC in-charge Sushant Handage with a Mudhol hound at the Canine Research and Information Centre at Timmapur near Mudhol in Bagalkot district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

A team led by director of research B.V. Shivaprakash prepared a detailed proposal that included a list of features that distinguished the Mudhol hound from other breeds. It includes genotype and phenotype features, and the native tract or the land area in which it is naturally occurring or usually bred by farmers.

It was based on data collected in the KVAFSU's Canine Research and Information Centre (CRIC) at Thimmapur near Mudhol. The CRIC has also won the NBAGR Breed Conservation Award. Ludhiana's Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University won the award for preserving Nili Ravi breed of buffaloes.

Where Mudhols serve

Among the agencies the CRIC has supplied pups to are the Indian Army and Air Force, Remount Veterinary Corps, Sashastra Seema Bal, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force in Sriharikota, Border Security Force, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, State police, and the elite Special Protection Group that protects VIPs such as the Prime Minister.

The CRIC was established under the capital grants system of the university in 2009-10. The KVAFSU released funds from the Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) to set up the centre. The centre's scientists selected 240 farmers from SC/ST communities who were given free pairs of parent dogs, vaccines, and food for one year.

"We also trained them in best breeding practices. An assessment of the scheme later revealed that a large number of the original beneficiaries were still breeding Mudhol hounds," said Sushant Handage, centre in-charge.

The centre maintains a clearly defined bloodline of male and female parents to avoid inbreeding. It supplies certified Mudhol pups to breeders and the general public. "We are helping breeders form a farmers' produce organisation to help them get better prices," Dr. Handage said.

Dr. Shivakumar acknowledges the support of the State government to the CRIC and to Suresh Honnappagol, former Vice-Chancellor, who started the centre and was instrumental in introducing the Mudhol to the Indian army.

Haryana-based institute NBAGR is governed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute. Its mandate includes identification, evaluation, characterisation, conservation, and sustainable utilisation of livestock and poultry genetic resources. Its scientists are involved in coordination and capacity building in animal genetic resources management and policy issues.

Regularly, ICAR-NBAGR conducts systematic surveys to characterise, evaluate, and catalogue farm livestock and poultry genetic resources and to establish and maintain a national database. It has various wings tasked with designing methodologies for *ex-situ* conservation and *in-situ* management and optimal utilisation of farm animal genetic resources. Its officers undertake studies on genetic characterisation using modern biological techniques such as molecular cytogenetics, immunology, DNA fingerprinting, RFLP analysis and related issues.

BJP entrusts BSY with task of making 11 leaders fall in line

Six of them meet top leaders and clarify that their intention was not to embarrass the party

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Embarrassed by the episode of its leaders indulging in mud-slinging after the Assembly poll debacle, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has identified 11 leaders who have been making controversial remarks and has entrusted veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa with the task of making them fall in line with party discipline.

The party began the exercise on Friday as six of the 11 leaders were spoken to at the party State office in Bengaluru by a team of senior leaders including Mr. Yediyurappa, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, State president Nalin Kumar Kateel, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, and national general secretary C.T. Ravi.

The 11 leaders who have been marked by the party for their controversial remarks are M.P. Renukacharya, Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Murugesh Nirani, Prabhu Chauhan, Pratap Simha, Ramesh Jigajinagi, Dasarahalli Muniraju, A.S. Nadahalli, Charanthi Math, Thammesh Gowda, and Ishwar Singh Thakur. Of them, the BJP disciplinary committee had served a show-cause notice only on Mr. Renukacharya for his aggressive remarks against the party's pre-poll decisions. It is learnt that though the party initially wanted to serve notice on others too, but changed its mind later as some of them reportedly assured the party leadership that they would mend fences.

BJP leaders B.S. Yediyurappa and Nalin Kumar Kateel addressing the media in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Those who clarified

Six of them - Mr. Yatnal, Mr. Simha, Mr. Muniraju, Mr. Nadahalli, Mr. Math, and Mr. Gowda - appeared before the party leadership in Bengaluru on Friday and clarified that their intention was not to embarrass the party.

According to BJP State general secretary Ravikumar, the six were heard by the party leadership and also told to desist from issuing such statements in public again.

Momentum for LS polls

Mr. Ravikumar said Mr. Yediyurappa had been given the responsibility of talking to the remaining leaders who have indulged in blame game. This is so that the party could focus on building momentum for launching preparations for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. The BJP that has not acted for a long time on the controversial statements by its leaders has begun the task of setting its house in order ahead of the Legislature session set to begin from Monday.

The BJP leadership is planning to use the legislature session as a platform for beginning the process of strengthening the party organisation in view of the Lok Sabha polls.

Karnataka ready to resolve water-sharing disputes through dialogue: Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said the State government is ready to resolve river water-sharing disputes between neighbouring States, particularly with Tamil Nadu, through mutual dialogue rather than intervention of the tribunals/courts.

Mr. Shivakumar on Thursday called on Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and discussed pending irrigation projects of Karnataka with him.

Mr. Shivakumar, who is also in charge of the Water Resources Ministry, met the Union Minister at his residence in Delhi, and discussed the contentious Mekedatu balancing reservoir across the Cauvery river and the Mahadayi drinking water project, among other irrigation projects in the State.

Speaking to reporters in the national capital, he said a petition would be submitted to the Supreme Court seeking 12 weeks' time for resolving the dispute with Tamil Nadu through talks.

On Krishna tribunal

He urged the Jal Shakti Minister to issue Krishna Tribunal Award gazette notification and pending permissions from the Centre for Kalasa Banduri nala project. He also urged Mr. Shekhawat to facilitate early clearance for the Mekedatu dam project in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka, which has been opposed by neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu passed a resolution against construction of the Mekedatu dam project saying it would curtail the flow of water to it.

D.K. Shivakumar

Karnataka has proposed the dam project as per the tribunal order and the Supreme Court ruling delivered in 2018, for catering to drinking water requirements of Bengaluru city.

'No clarity'

Mr. Shivakumar said there was no clarity in the Tamil Nadu government's complaint against the construction of the Mekedatu project. He said the Markandeya project was meant to alleviate drinking water problems of Kolar, Bangarpet, and Mallur towns and there was no substance in Tamil Nadu government's opposition to it, he said. Tamil Nadu claimed the completion of the construction of the dam across Markandeya would jeopardise the existing irrigation and drinking water needs of the State.

BJP to stage satyagraha on July 4 seeking 'proper implementation' of schemes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP has decided to stage one-day satyagraha both inside and outside the legislature Houses on July 4 demanding "effective implementation" of the pre-poll guarantees assured by the Congress.

This was decided at a meeting of State office-bearers convened by the party in Bengaluru on Friday. BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa told reporters that BJP workers would stage the satyagraha in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises. On the same day, BJP's legislators would protest inside both the legislature Houses, he said.

The protesters will demand that the promises made in guarantee cards signed by Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar and distributed to most households before the polls should be distributed in letter and spirit, he said. He demanded that a total of 200 units of free power should be provided to every household unlike the present system of pegging the free power supply to the household's average consumption level.

Minor girl found dead, parents allege torture by teachers; three booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 16-year-old girl studying in a private school in Hoskote ended her life after she was allegedly subjected to torture for nearly a month. The Hoskote police have booked three teachers under charges of abetment to suicide.

While the police had initially filed an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) on June 20, a week later, the parents filed a complaint accusing teachers of inflicting torture following which police filed the FIR. The accused teachers are currently absconding.

Initially unaware

The police, talking to *The Hindu*, said when the incident occurred, the parents had maintained that they were unaware as to why their daughter ended her life.

A week later, the parents alleged that they learnt from her friends that their daughter was being targeted and was punished multiple times, the police said. The parents also alleged that the teachers made her kneel down and perform sit-ups in front of other students.

The police said the parents informed the investigation officer that the son of a teacher working in the same school had proposed to her and threatened her of consequences if she refused. The police also said that in the complaint it was alleged that on the day of the incident she was in tears when she walked out of the room of a teacher. Multiple teachers had summoned her on that day. The police have started the probe to know what exactly had transpired in the last one month.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Applications invited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada Sahitya Parishat has invited applications from candidates to appear for Kannada Pravesha, Kaava Jaana, and Ratna exam to be held in December last week.

The last date for submitting applications is August 31 and September 15 is the last date for submitting applications with a fine of ₹50. Call 080-26623584 or 080-26612991 for details.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

HIRING OF TWIN ENGINE TURBO PROP AIRCRAFT ON WET LEASE BASIS FOR OFFICIAL USE OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department desires to hire a twin engine turbo prop aircraft (2 pilots + 6 passengers) for a period of 1 year i.e. from **01.10.2023 to 30.09.2024** complying to all safety norms as prescribed by the DGCA from time to time for flying of VIPs like Governor, Chief Minister, Ministers and other dignitaries. The hired aircraft will be stationed at Bhubaneswar.

Eligible and interested aircraft operators may download the Request for Quotation (RFQ) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following website of Government of Odisha and submit their offer,

https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app & **https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders**

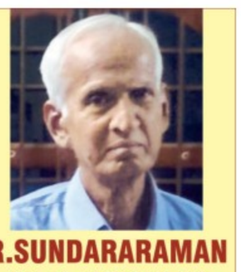
Proposals complete in all respect should reach the undersigned latest by **03:00 PM on 01.08.2023**. Bids received after the above deadline shall be summarily rejected. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd-
Additional Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation,
Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department
Government of Odisha

J-08: OIPR-38001/11/0014/2324

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



R.SUNDARARAMAN
(81yrs), DMD Retd. SBI
Passed away peacefully on 30.06.2023 at Australia.
Om Shanthi Sundar
Deeply Mourned by
Ramanathan and Family Members

Four years on, awareness about Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka health scheme remains poor: Study

Study in three districts reveals that about 56% of the respondents have heard about the scheme

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Data from households in Samnapur village from Yadgir, Chikkonahally village in Tumakuru, and a slum and non-slum area from Chandra Layout in Bengaluru was collected to assess awareness and knowledge.

Although it has been over four years since the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) health scheme was rolled out, awareness and knowledge about the scheme has still not reached all. A study by the Population Research Centre at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) in three districts in Karnataka has revealed that only about 56% of the respondents have heard about this health scheme.

Data from the households in Samnapur village from Yadgir, an aspirational district, Chikkonahally village of Tumakuru, a non-aspirational district, and also a slum and non-slum area from Chandra Layout in Bengaluru was collected to assess awareness and knowledge about the scheme, said professor C.M. Lakshmana from ISEC, who conducted the study.

Overall, 56.3% of the respondents had heard about the scheme. Three out of five respondents from Bengaluru Urban and Chikkonahally had heard of the scheme while about 43% had knowledge about the scheme in Samanpur. Field surveys for the study were done between December 2022 and January 2023.

"It was observed that male respondents from rural parts of Karnataka had heard of the scheme while in urban Karnataka, by contrast, most of the female respondents were aware of the scheme. When it comes to the source of information about the scheme, it was observed that nearly five out of 10 respondents, that is 50% of the respondents, had received the information about the scheme from health workers such as anganwadi workers, ASHAs, and ANMs," he said.

The source of information differed from villages to slum areas. In Samanpur, four out of five respondents had received the information from the health workers. In Chikkonahally, 54% were informed by health workers, and the village panchayat played a key role as 29% of the respondents received the information about the health scheme from there.

In urban localities, 56% of respondents from non-slum areas received the information from various sources of media such as newspaper, television, mobile, and social media. "This confirms that in urban areas, both electronic and print media have been the major source of information on various schemes and programmes of health awareness and knowledge," Prof. Lakshmana said.

"To some extent in urban areas, especially slums, there is a presence of NGOs which also played a key role in creating awareness on the government programmes in general and AB-ArK in particular. As a result, in the visited slum areas in Chandra Layout, the source of information on AB-ArK was 39% from health workers and a considerable number of slum-dwellers had received information from an NGO – Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR)," he explained.

Knowledge about the scheme

In the urban locality, nearly half of the respondents stated that the programme was implemented by the State government while in the rural areas of Samanpur and Chikkonahally, they said the programme was implemented by the Central government.

Regarding knowledge on the eligibility for availing of the benefit of AB-ArK, over half of the respondents were aware that all people, irrespective of their economic class, can avail themselves of the benefits of the programme. In Samanpur and the non-slum area of Chandra Layout, nearly 47% believed that the programme could be availed of only by BPL families. Overall, only 36% of respondents knew that AB-ArK is a cashless scheme and not more than 2% were aware that treatment up to ₹5 lakh can be availed of under the scheme.

AIADMK declines being drawn into debate on Governor's powers

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The AIADMK on Friday declined to be drawn into the debate on the powers of a Governor to dismiss Ministers from the State Cabinet.

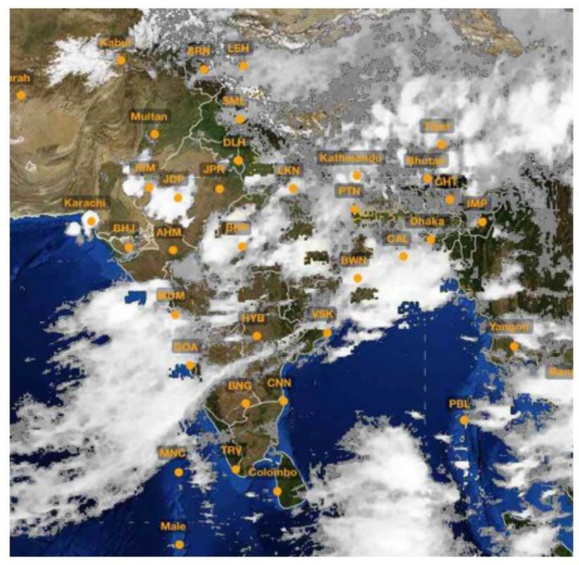
Referring to a case pending before the Madras High Court, organisation secretary and former Minister D. Jayakumar told journalists that the issue of removal of Ministers had been raised. "I can only tell you my party's position: V. Senthilbalaji should not remain a Minister [without a portfolio]."

Pointing out that the demand for Mr. Senthilbalaji's removal was made because he was now in judicial custody, the former Minister termed as an administrative matter Governor R.N. Ravi's decision to seek the opinion of the Attorney-General on the removal of Mr. Senthilbalaji from the Cabinet.

Explaining why Mr. Senthilbalaji should not continue as a Minister, Mr. Jayakumar contended that "the provision of official accommodation, car, staff, including security personnel, and other benefits is meant to facilitate a Minister to look after a department. Why should the taxpayers' money be wasted on a person who has no portfolio?" He said the ruling DMK was "protecting" Mr. Senthilbalaji, whose continuance in power was being used as a "shield" against the Enforcement Directorate's investigation into the charges against the Minister.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	37.2	31.5	25.5	Kozhikode	10	32.8	24.9
Ahmedabad	71	34.3	24.8	Kurnool	5	36.0	25.3
Aizawl	0.6	29.2	21.1	Lucknow	0.6	30.3	26.7
Allahabad	—	32.0	25.8	Madurai	—	40.3	26.8
Bengaluru	2	29.9	21.0	Mangaluru	7.4	29.7	23.0
Bhopal	—	—	—	Mumbai	47	27.5	24.2
Bhubaneswar	0.1	36.4	27.9	Mysuru	—	32.0	21.6
Chandigarh	43	36.2	27.0	New Delhi	5	34.5	25.0
Chennai	—	37.3	27.5	Patna	143	28.1	23.9
Coimbatore	—	34.5	23.6	Port Blair	2	31.7	24.4
Dehradun	24	31.9	22.6	Puducherry	0.1	38.0	27.2
Gangtok	11	21.6	17.7	Pune	8.6	27.8	22.0
Goa	119	27.7	22.4	Raipur	—	33.0	25.4
Guwahati	8	31.8	24.8	Ranchi	3	30.0	23.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	27	23.6	17.9
Hyderabad	0.2	34.4	23.9	Shimla	2	23.6	16.6
Imphal	10	26.4	21.8	Srinagar	—	27.0	18.3
Jaipur	13	32.8	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	0.6	33.0	23.7
Kochi	11	30.6	23.4	Tiruchi	—	39.2	27.6
Kohima	—	24.4	17.3	Vijayawada	—	38.6	27.8
Kolkata	0.1	36.0	28.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	29.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	..38	.45	45	50	
Bengaluru	...7	..41	.18	25	75	
Chennai	...4	..94	.48	44	40	
Delhi	.18	188	113	59	83	
Hyderabad	.12	9	.37	67	65	
Kolkata	.15	..13	.27	31	45	
Lucknow	.11	..17	.68	30	53	
Mumbai	.13	7	100	25	22	
Pune	133	222	109	33	29	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..51	.16	59	97	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Narnaul, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 338 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri.Harish Kallury, son of Sri.K,V.Subba Rao aged about 45 years residing at No.1296, 20th Main, 2nd Phase, J P Nagar, Bangalore-560078 executed a unregistered Deed of General Power of Attorney dated 22/12/2006 by appointing Mr.M.SHIVA KUMAR, son of Late.M.S.Mahadevaiah, aged about 52 years, residing at No.109,HVR Layout,4th Main, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore -566079 as Attorney in respect of immovable property as mentioned in the Schedule below

.And Whereas for Personal reasons and other considerations, it is become, necessity for my clients to revoke and withdraw all the powers given to the said Attorney and in that respect my client already sent the legal notice to the said Attorney through registered post.

The General public is hereby informed not to deal, negotiate and interfere with the above said Attorney holder in respect of the above said GPA dated 22/12/2006 and Schedule property. Any person who deals, contacts, negotiate with the said Attorney in respect of Schedule property will be doing so at their own risk, costs and consequences thereof.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property of alienated land (Alienation No.R4, ALN37/69-70 dated 28-05-1971, ailinated for residential and industrial purpose bearing Survey No.190/1-A2, Municipal corporation Site No.190/1 situated at Giriyabhovipalya, (Kyathamaranahalli), Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, Nazarabad Moholla, Mysore, measuring to an extent of 38 Guntas out of 3 Acres of alienated land bounded on

East by : Road, **West by :** Road,
North By: Land bearing Sy.No.190/1A1
South by: Land bearing Sy.No.191/1

M.S.VISHWANATHA,
Counsel for Executants
No.1795 40th A Cross, 4 th T Block,
Jayanagar, BANGALORE-560069,
Ph: 9844704705

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SALEM DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SA-TRD-2023-24-119A DATED 27.06.2023

Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction and Distribution branch/ Salem Division, Salem- 5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tenderer(s)/ Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for works in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tender will be accepted. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature certificates for participating e-tendering.

Tender No.: SA-TRD-2023-24-119A
Name of work: Salem Division - (i) Replacement of rusted Anti Creep wire with Cadmium Copper wire and (ii) Improvement to existing Aluminium along track feeder with 150 Sqmm by replacement with Copper feeder wire between TPT - PTJ section.
Appx. value of the work (₹ in lakh): 21.47
Cost of tender form ₹: 0
Amount of EMD ₹: 43000
Completion period of work: 06 months
Tender closing date and time: 31.07.2023 at 14.30 Hrs.
Complete details of the above tenders are given on the e-portal **"www.ireps.gov.in".**
For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.ireps.gov.in".**
The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

Office of the Managing Director
Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam, Shimla
2nd Floor, Block No. 24, STPI Building, SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-171009

Invitation for Bids No.: 003/2023-24 Date: 30/06/2023

Loan/Grant No. and Title: Loan No.: 3573-IND/ Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project.

Deadline for submission of bids: **28/07/2023** upto 01:30 PM

Contract Package (NCB) No. and Title:
HPKVN/CoE/Equipment & Furniture/01/R2 – Supply of Equipment and Machinery related items for Center of Excellence, Waknaghat, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

HPKVN/CoE/IT/01: Supply of the Equipment for Information Technology related items for Center of Excellence (CoE), Waknaghat, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

1. India has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of "Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project" and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to the payment under the Contract Package named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The "Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam, Himachal Pradesh", represented by the Managing Director ("The Purchaser") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of various IT Equipment and machinery and related items for CoE.
3. **National Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Bid Document	Package No.	Contractual experience: Successful completion as main supplier within the last three (3) years of at least One (1) contract with nature, and complexity similar to the scope of supply described in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply). The contract value of Lot is indicated below:	Average Annual Turnover: Minimum average annual turnover as indicated below calculated as total payments received by the Bidder for contracts completed or under execution over the last three (3) years. The Average Annual Turnover is indicated below:
1.	**HPKVN/CoE/Equipment & Furniture/01/R2**		
	Lot 1- Food and Beverages Lab	INR 2.7 Crores	INR 6.8 Crores
	Lot 2- Food Production Lab	INR 1.4 Crores	INR 3.5 Crores
2.	**(HPKVN/CoE/IT/01) -** IT and related Equipment	INR 5 Crores	INR 12.5 Crores

However, for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, respective bid document should be referred.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

   Attention: **Managing Director,**
   Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam
   2nd Floor, Block No 24, STPI Building,
   SDA Complex, Kasumpti,
   Shimla, Himachal Pradesh 171009,
   Country India
   Telephone & Fax: 0177-2624581,
   E-mail address: hpkvnshimla@gmail.com

6. To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should write or visit at the office of the Purchaser at address stated above and pay **a non-refundable fee** of **INR 10,000/- for each bidding document** in the form of **Bank Demand Draft.** In case of written request, the document will be sent by post and no liability will be accepted, for loss or late delivery.

   The eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document for English language from the website: https://hpkvn.in, such bidders shall be required to submit **INR 10,000/-** with their bid **for each bidding document** in the form of **Bank demand draft** in the name of the Managing Director, HPKVN towards cost of bidding document.

7. Deliver your bid
   - to the address above
   - On or before the deadline: **28/07/2023 at 01:30 PM**.
   - together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.

8. Bids will be opened on **28/07/2023 at 02:00 PM** in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Purchaser will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the bidder in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Sd/-
Managing Director

Proc-2215

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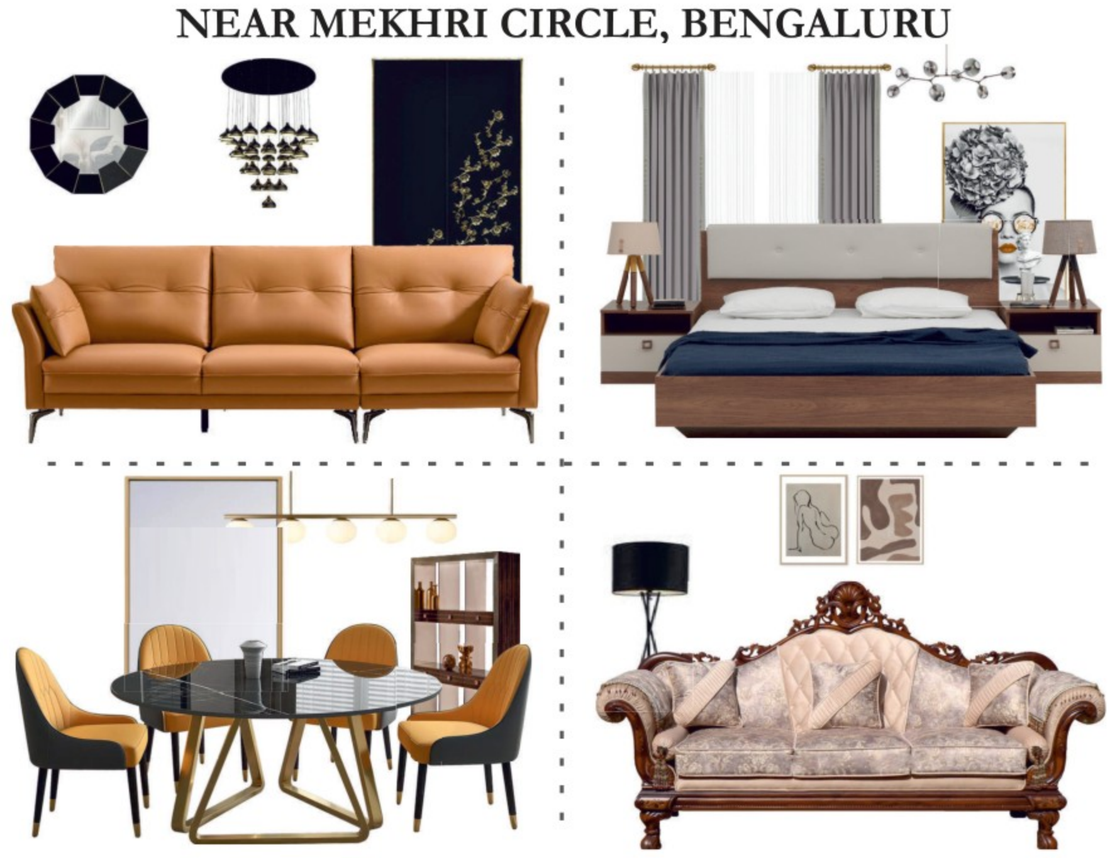

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A misadventure

Tamil Nadu Governor has acted without forethought in sacking a Minister

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi appears to be on a mission to demonstrate his tenuous grasp of the Constitution. In an action without precedent – and, as it turns out, without forethought – he sent out a communication to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, M.K. Stalin, that he had dismissed V. Senthilbalaji, a State Minister without Portfolio, who is in hospital and in judicial custody. Within hours, on the advice of the Union Home Minister, he again wrote to the Chief Minister that he was holding the order in abeyance and was, instead, seeking the opinion of the Attorney General of India. One would have thought that a Governor expected to abide by constitutional norms would have obtained appropriate legal opinion prior to his drastic action. That Mr. Ravi had to be advised to seek *ex post facto* legal opinion reflects poorly on his decision-making prowess. His letter says he was invoking Articles 153, 163 and 164 of the Constitution, which deal with the executive power of the State being vested in the Governor, his acting on the Cabinet's aid and advice, and the appointment of the Chief Minister and other Ministers. The constitutional scheme set out in these articles gives no room for doubt that the Governor has no discretion in the matter of appointing and removing ministers, which is under the Chief Minister's domain.

Mr. Ravi has sought to justify the extraordinary action by referring to the allegations against the Minister and the Supreme Court of India's observations in a recent order. However, any call to remove a Minister is an appeal to moral sense rather than a legal requirement. For the Governor to remove someone unilaterally on the ground that his earlier counsel to drop a Minister went unheeded is nothing but a constitutional misadventure. It will be desirable if Ministers facing charges quit on their own, or they are removed by the respective Chief Ministers. In the past, the framing of charges in the trial court has led to Ministers being removed, but it remains a moral high ground, and not a mandatory feature of the constitutional system. Few would disagree that the charges of bribery that Mr. Senthilbalaji faces, dating back to his stint in the erstwhile All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam regime, and allegations of laundering the proceeds are serious enough to merit his stepping down until he is cleared of charges. Mr. Stalin could have acted on his own to avoid facing the charge that he is providing a "shield of office" for the Minister to protect himself or that the Minister's presence in the Cabinet is obstructing the due process of law. But nothing can excuse the Governor's misadventure.

All hands on deck

T.S. Singhdeo's elevation in Chhattisgarh expands the Congress's reach

The elevation of T.S. Singhdeo as Deputy Chief Minister in the Congress government in Chhattisgarh is partly a reward for his loyalty to the party, and partly a message to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel who has risen as a regional strongman. Mr. Baghel spearheaded the Congress party's comeback in the 2018 Assembly elections in the State after a hiatus of 15 years. With his ear to the ground, Mr. Baghel instinctively senses the political mood of the State, and under him the Congress party has devised a unique mobilisation model. The party won 68 of the 90 Assembly seats in the State in 2018, and in government, continued to consolidate its support base. A combination of welfare schemes, an innovative evocation of Chhattisgarh's subnational identity, and social engineering that drew Other Backward Class communities closer to it, placed the Congress in an advantageous position against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The State government also rolled out a slew of schemes that pandered to Hindu sentiments as a counter to the BJP's Hindutva politics. All this boosted the Congress, but also strengthened the Chief Minister in such a way that others in the party began to feel the discomforting weight of his expanding power.

Strong regional leaderships create a typical dilemma for national parties such as the Congress and the BJP. On the one hand they anchor the party while on the other the stronger they are, the more deviant they could turn from the national agenda of the party. Strong leaders are often reluctant to subject themselves to processes, within the party or through institutions. Balancing this essential need of strong leadership with the imperatives of party decorum is not an easy task. Mr. Baghel has created a model for combating the BJP in the heartland, which the Congress could seek to replicate in other comparable regions. But the Congress can ill-afford to let success devour it. The history of the party in the State is instructive. Under the late Ajit Jogi, the first Chief Minister of the State, the party wilted as it alienated communities and its own leaders. Mr. Baghel's leadership was a critical factor in the revival of the party, but so were the contributions of several others, known and unknown. For it to retain power in the State, the Congress will have to hold all of them together. Mr. Singhdeo's elevation is, hence, a first step in the right direction. There is more to be done, including a renewed outreach to tribal communities. But at least the Congress seems ready to project a united front in Chhattisgarh.

The Governor's move is dangerous, unconstitutional

P.D.T. Achary

is a former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The Tamil Nadu Governor's move to 'dismiss' a Minister highlights the point that the pleasure of the Governor under the Constitution of India insofar as it relates to Ministers is not the same as that of the colonial Governor

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, R.N. Ravi, has dismissed V. Senthilbalaji, a Minister in the Council of Ministers of Tamil Nadu – as in the communication issued by the Raj Bhavan on June 29, 2023. (The Governor later backtracked on his decision late in the night, keeping the "dismissal" order in abeyance.) The operative part of the press release issued by the Raj Bhavan is that "there are reasonable apprehensions that continuation of Thiru V. Senthilbalaji in the Council of Ministers will adversely impact the due process of law, including fair investigation that may eventually lead to breakdown of the Constitutional machinery in the State". Hence, the dismissal of the Minister.

This unprecedented and deliberately provocative act of dismissing a Minister of a government which enjoys an absolute majority in the State legislature, without the recommendation of the Chief Minister of the State, is going to set a dangerous precedent and has the potential to destabilise State governments putting the federal system in jeopardy. If Governors are allowed to exercise the power of dismissal of individual Ministers without the knowledge and recommendation of the Chief Minister, the whole constitutional system will collapse.

Articles and clarity

What needs to be examined first is whether Governors have the power to dismiss an individual Minister without the advice of the Chief Minister. Under Article 164 of the Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor without any advice from anyone. But he appoints the individual Ministers only on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Article implies that the Governor cannot appoint an individual Minister according to his discretion. So, logically, the Governor can dismiss a Minister only on the advice of the Chief Minister.

The reason is simple. The Chief Minister alone has the discretion to choose his Ministers. He decides who the Ministers of his Council will be. He also decides who will not remain as a Minister in his Council. This is a political decision of the Chief Minister, who is ultimately answerable to the people. The Constitution has not transferred the discretion of the Chief Minister to the Governor.

This point would become absolutely clear on looking at the Government of India Act, 1935. Section 51(1) of this Act says, "the Governor's Ministers shall be chosen and summoned by him, shall be sworn as members of the council and shall hold office during his pleasure". This Section makes it clear that the Ministers shall be chosen by the Governor. So, they hold office during his pleasure. Further, sub-section 5 of Section 51 says, "The functions of the Governor under this section with respect to the choosing and summoning and the dismissal of Ministers and with respect to the determination of their salaries, shall be exercised by him in his discretion".

Two things are clear from Section 51(1) and Section 51(5) of the Government of India Act, 1935. One, the Ministers are chosen by the Governor. Two, they are dismissed by him at his discretion. Thus, the Governor during the colonial rule had absolute discretion to choose a Minister and dismiss him. The hire and fire approach.

A mere constitutional head

Now, the Tamil Nadu Governor's action conveys the impression that he thinks that the Governors under the Constitution of India have the same discretionary powers as the Governors appointed by His Majesty by the commission under the Royal Sign Manual. Perhaps the words, "the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor" in Article 164 might have given him such an impression. But, independent India has a constitutional system under which a Governor is a mere constitutional head and he can act only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.

B.R. Ambedkar had stated unambiguously in the Constituent Assembly that there is no executive function which a Governor can perform independently under the Constitution. So, choosing a Minister and dismissing him are no longer within his discretion. It is the Chief Minister who chooses the Minister. It is the Chief Minister who recommends the removal of a Minister.

It is true that the pleasure doctrine has been brought into the Constitution of India from the Government of India Act, 1935. But these words simply refer to the formal act of issuing the order of dismissal which is to be done by the Governor, but only on the advice of the Chief Minister. It is because it is the Governor who appoints the Ministers. Therefore, it has to be the Governor who should dismiss them.

The pleasure of the Governor under the Constitution of India insofar as it relates to the Ministers is not the same as that of the colonial Governor. It should be noted here that much of the Act of 1935 has been reproduced in the Constitution. Section 51 of the Government of India Act, 1935 confers on the Governor the discretion to choose as well as dismiss the Ministers. But when Article 164 of the Constitution was drafted, the words "chosen", "dismissal" and "discretion" were omitted. It was a significant omission which makes it abundantly clear that the Constitution did not confer any discretion on the Governor to either choose or dismiss an individual Minister.

Judicial clarification

The position of the Governor in India's Constitutional setup has been clarified by the Supreme Court of India in a number of cases. In *Shamsher Singh and Anr vs State Of Punjab* (1974), a seven- judge Constitution Bench declared the Law on the Powers of a Governor in the Republic in the following words: "we declare the law of this branch of our Constitution to be that the President and Governor, custodians of all executive and other powers under various Articles, shall, by virtue of these provisions, exercise their formal constitutional powers only upon and in accordance with the advice of their Ministers save in a few well known exceptional situations...."

Similarly, in *Nabam Rebia vs Deputy Speaker*, a Constitution Bench of five judges reaffirmed the law laid down in *Shamsher Singh* and further held that the discretionary powers of the Governor are limited to the postulates of Article 163(1). The Court also set aside the decisions in the Mahabir Prasad Sharma and Pratapsing Raojirao Rane cases, where it was held that the Governor can exercise power under Article 164 in an unfettered manner.

In sum, the dismissal of a Minister of the Tamil Nadu Government by the Governor of the State without the advice of the Chief Minister is constitutionally wrong. Newspaper reports suggest that the Governor later held back his order of dismissal for legal consultation. But the issue of dismissal of a Minister without the advice of the Chief Minister is one which clearly destabilises the constitutional system.

A new chapter in India-Africa ties can be written

Rajiv Bhatia

is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and a former High Commissioner to Kenya, Lesotho and South Africa

Relations have developed well and steadily but more progress is achievable, as a new report points out

There is a slow realisation that Africa, a continent, accounting for nearly 17% of the world's population today and reaching 25% in 2050, needs to be studied closely. Why? Because India's rise as a global player is inevitably linked to the kind of partnership it enjoys with Africa.

In the past 15 years and especially since 2014, India-Africa relations have developed steadily but more progress is achievable. In this context, the 20-member Africa Expert Group (AEG), established by the Vivekananda International Foundation, recently presented the VIF Report entitled 'India-Africa Partnership: Achievements, Challenges and Roadmap 2023'. (This writer chaired the Africa Expert Group established by the Vivekananda International Foundation.)

Africa in transition

The report examines the transitions unfolding in Africa: demographic, economic, political and social. From this blend of changes, stamped by the adverse impact of the pandemic and complicated geopolitics, emerges a continent that is set to transform itself. It is slowly heading toward regional integration and is devoted to democracy, peace and progress, even as Ethiopia, Sudan, the Central African Republic and other countries continue to battle with the challenges posed by insurgency, ethnic violence and terrorism.

Superimposed on this landscape is the sharpening competition among at least half a dozen external partners such as China, Russia, the United States, the European Union, Japan, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates for strengthening their relations with parts of Africa to ensure market access, gain energy and mineral security, and increase political and economic influence. China stands apart, armed with a consistent and robust policy since 2000 to become virtually Africa's biggest economic partner. An essay in the report aptly portrays China's role as 'the infrastructure developer', 'the resource provider', and 'the financier.' It has invested enormously in Africa in terms of money, materials and diplomatic push.

Since 2007, Chinese leaders have visited the continent 123 times, while 251 African leaders have visited China. The VIF report notes that India has a substantive partnership with Africa and a rich fund of goodwill, but it is "essential for New Delhi to review its Africa policy periodically, stay resilient by making the required changes, and place a razor-like focus on its implementation".

Gist of recommendations

The central part is 'Roadmap 2030', a set of nearly 60 policy recommendations that are designed to deepen and diversify the India-Africa partnership. They cover four areas.

First, political and diplomatic cooperation should be strengthened by restoring periodic leaders' summits through the medium of the India-Africa Forum Summit; the last summit was in 2015. Besides, a new annual strategic dialogue between the chairperson of the African Union (AU) and India's External Affairs Minister should be launched in 2023. Another recommendation relates to forging consensus among G-20 members on the AU's entry into the G-20 as a full member. Action is now under way, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent communication to G-20 leaders requesting support for this proposal. The expert group has also suggested that the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) should have a secretary exclusively in charge of African affairs to further enhance the implementation and impact of the Africa policy.

Second, on defence and security cooperation, the government needs to increase the number of defence attachés deployed in Africa, expand dialogue on defence issues, widen the footprint of maritime collaboration, and expand lines of credit to facilitate defence exports. More can be done to increase the number of defence training slots and enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, cyber security and emerging technologies.

Third, the largest number of recommendations relate to economic and development cooperation. India-Africa trade touching $98 billion in FY22-23 is an encouraging development. This figure can go up if access to finance through the creation of an Africa Growth Fund (AGF) is ensured. A special package of measures to improve project exports and build up cooperation in the shipping domain has been suggested. A special focus on promoting trilateral cooperation and deepening science and technology cooperation could pay rich dividends.

Fourth, socio-cultural cooperation should be increased through greater interaction between universities, think tanks, civil society and media organisations in India and select African countries. Setting up a National Centre for African Studies will be the right step. Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarships awarded to Africans should be named after famous African figures. Visa measures for African students who come to India for higher education should be liberalised. They should also be given work visas for short periods.

Finally, the report suggests a special mechanism for implementing the 'Roadmap 2030'. This can best be secured through close collaboration between the MEA and the National Security Council Secretariat through a team of officials working under the joint leadership of the Secretary, Africa in the MEA, and a designated Deputy National Security Adviser.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Governor's move

The context of the Supreme Court of India judgment in 1979 is something different as the person in question was a Chief Minister and the case related to the question whether the Chief Minister is a public servant or not (Inside pages, "Appointment authority is also dismissing authority, said SC in *M. Karunanidhi vs Union of India*", June 30). What is stated in the judgment is purely an opinion of the judges on an issue not directly connected to the case. It is an *obiter dictum*. Even for argument's sake, if one could say by citing the above judgment, that the appointing authority is also a dismissing authority, then the very appointment of a Minister is made on the advice of the Chief Minister. When it is clear that the appointment of the Minister is made on the advice of the Chief Minister, then the dismissal should also be only on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Governor, for whatever reason it might be, cannot dismiss a Minister arbitrarily without the advice of the Chief Minister.

In the present case, the person in question is a Minister and it is the prerogative of the Chief Minister to have or drop a person from the Council of Ministers. At best, the Governor can only communicate his observation on the issue and offer his suggestion to the Chief Minister. If the Governor could remove the Minister on his own, and such action is accepted, then the question arises on who the head of the Council of Ministers is.

On May 31, 1949, B.R. Ambedkar, in the Constituent Assembly debates, declared that according to the Constitution, the Governor will remain a constitutional authority with no power to interfere in administration. The Governor will act only on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. Mr. Kamath and other members of the Constituent Assembly had apprehensions about the role of the Governor, if the Governor took the law into his hands. All the arguments were turned down due to the enormous trust B.R. Ambedkar had in those appointed to the post of Governor.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu is not functioning in accordance with the trust laid on him by the makers of the Constitution.

P.B. Prince Gajendra Babu,
Chennai

The continuing tussle between the Governor and the State government is most unfortunate and does not augur well for the State. The fact that the people of the State have given a clear mandate to the party in power should not be undermined. Having said that, the State Government could have asked the Minister to step down till the case is disproved, and lead by example.

S. Parthasarathy,
Chennai

This will turn out to be the most bizarre and unconstitutional act ever committed by a Governor in post-independence history. The principles of representative parliamentary republican democracy that have been enshrined in the Constitution clearly make the holder of the gubernatorial office a *de-jure* head. The *de facto* head is the Chief Minister. The growing trend of Raj Bhavans to act as a parallel administration and undercut elected governments does not bode well for democratic ethos.

Argha Mallick,
Kolkata

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Devotees at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. R.V. MOORTHY

Sacred hymns, political games

The Punjab government has passed a Bill to ensure that the broadcast and telecast of the Gurbani from the Golden Temple is free for all channels. **Vikas Vasudeva** reports on how the decision has led to a political slugfest and divided the Sikh community

As devotees walk through Heritage Street of Amritsar, the sound of melodious Gurbani *kirtans* (sacred hymns) fill the air. This is one of the oldest streets of the city and is lined with shops. Thousands throng the no-traffic zone, which leads to the Golden Temple. Gurbani *kirtans* are sung when the portals of the temple are open in the wee hours of morning. The singing stops when the portals close during the evening. The hymns are sung by Sikh clerics sitting in the gilded complex of the temple. Today, the Gurbani is at the centre of a political controversy in Punjab.

On June 20, 2023, the Punjab government passed the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill. Through the Bill, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led government is seeking to amend the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, which was enacted for the administration of certain Sikh gurdwaras in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh. The government's aim is to ensure that the broadcast and telecast of the Gurbani from the Golden Temple is free for all channels. The rights up until this point lay with G-Next Media Private Limited, which runs PTC Punjabi, a channel in which Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal has a majority stake. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said that the Bill aimed to ensure that there was no undue control of a "particular family" over the rights to telecast the Gurbani.

On June 26, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the apex governing body of all the Sikh gurdwaras in India and abroad, rejected the Bill. An angry SGPC said it would not tolerate "the Punjab government's interference in the Sikh Gurdwaras Act". Terming the move unconstitutional and politically motivated, it asked the government to withdraw the Bill or be ready to face an "intensified struggle".

The president of the SGPC, Harjinder Singh Dhami, also pointed out that an amendment to the Act was possible only with the recommendations of the governing body. "Before making any amendment to the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, the approval of two-thirds of the members of the SGPC's general house cannot be ignored," he said. Political parties including the Shiromani Akali Dal also criticised the government.

While some people are angry about the move, others support it. For the AAP, which has formed the government for the first time in the State that borders Pakistan, this controversy poses yet another challenge.

> Before introducing a Bill, the government should have made an effort to build consensus. The Aam Aadmi Party seems to be in a rush
>
> **CHARANJIT SINGH**
> Doctoral student

'Catastrophic decision'

Several people said the decision was an unnecessary mixing of political and religious issues. Gurpreet Kaur, 23, a law student at the Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, termed the blend of politics and religion in Punjab "catastrophic". Sitting outside the Gurdwara Sahib inside the campus of the university, she said, "The Sikh Gurdwaras Act manages the affairs of gurdwaras. It mandates the SGPC to take appropriate decisions. The AAP government should not have introduced the Bill in the Assembly. It could have separately probed the allegations of business interests surrounding the telecast of the Gurbani."

Her friends concurred. They said decisions on amendments to religious laws should be made by people who have been associated with religious bodies for years, and not politicians.

Charanjit Singh, 33, a doctoral student at the university, said political parties use religion to serve their interests. "The government and the SGPC are having a face-off and it appears that both are not doing enough to resolve the issue," he said. He believed that this would eventually hurt Punjab. "The AAP has formed the government in Punjab for the first time. To create and stabilise a vote bank, the party seems to be trying to woo Panthik (Sikh) voters. The AAP has been in power for around one and a half years. In this short period, how much clarity has it gathered on sensitive Sikh issues? Before introducing a Bill, the government should have made an effort to build consensus. The party seems to be in a rush. This issue does not concern just Sikhs, but the whole of Punjab and *Punjabiyat,*" he said.

A few kilometres from the university, devotees thronged the Golden Temple. Jasbir Singh, 53, a devotee at the Bazaar Mai Sewan market adjacent to the temple, said the government was creating conflict. "If the AAP feels that the SGPC has been grabbed by someone, it should contest elections and get the body freed," he said.

Harvinder Singh sells Rumala Sahib (rectangular pieces of silk used to cover the Guru Granth Sahib in the gurdwara), *kadas* (bangles) and other ceremonial articles associated with the Sikh faith on Heritage Street. He said if parties decided to "interfere" in matters related to Sikhism, it could be "dangerous for the *quom* (community)."

"If there are allegations that the telecast of the Gurbani has been monopolised by one TV channel belonging to a political party, the SGPC could start its own channel. But the government should stay away," he said firmly.

Students and faculty at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. R.V. MOORTHY

'A good step'

The Vidhan Sabha passed the Sikh Gurudwaras (Amendment) Bill with a majority. Section 125A stipulates that it will be the "duty of the Board (SGPC) to propagate the teachings of the Gurus by making uninterrupted (without any on-screen running advertisements/commercials/distortions) live feed (audio, or audio and video) of [the] holy Gurbani from Harmindar Sahib [Golden Temple] available free of cost to all media houses, outlets, platforms, channels etc. whoever wishes to broadcast it."

The rights to broadcast the Gurbani are granted by the SGPC. According to Dhami, as per the rules, since 1998, the SGPC had given the rights to broadcast the Gurbani from the Golden Temple to various channels. The current agreement with G-Next Media is up to July 2023. "This agreement was signed on July 24, 2012 for 11 years and now, after its expiration, a fresh process will be carried forward," Dhami said. Under the ongoing agreement, G-Next Media had decided to pay ₹1 crore annually, with a yearly hike of 10%, to the education fund of the SGPC. Dhami claimed that the due amount had been deposited.

> The move is commendable. It looks like the Opposition parties and the SGPC are trying to make this a religious issue
>
> **SURAJ SINGH**
> Businessman

Mann alleged that the SGPC, under the influence of a "family", had given the intellectual property rights of telecasting the Gurbani to a channel owned by that family. He also dismissed the move as an attack on Panth. That one family had control over the telecast of the Gurbani is unwarranted and unjustified, he said.

Some Sikhs agree with the government's reasoning. "If the Act is amended, there will be further reach of the Gurbani as more channels will be allowed to telecast it. That's a good step, right," said Sonu Singh, a vendor at Dharam Singh market on Heritage Street.

Suraj Singh, who runs a travel business in Amritsar, agreed. "The move is commendable. It looks like the Opposition parties and the SGPC are trying to make this a religious issue," he said.

Question of autonomy

The SGPC, which is also referred to as the "mini-Parliament of Sikhs", is directly elected by Sikhs who are registered as voters under the provisions of the Sikh Gurdwaras Act. However, questions are often asked about the SGPC's autonomy being subverted by the Badals.

Experts said that while the government's moves have created a controversy again, it has also sparked a debate on the SGPC's autonomy. "During the early years of the SGPC's inception in the 1920s, only those who were deeply committed to the faith fought the election. They managed the shrines and propagated the faith well. Now, nothing is being done about the evil practices in the electoral system. The Akali Dal, which was born of the SGPC, slowly began to control the parent body. The Akali Dal leadership has been in the hands of one family since the 1990s," said Dharam Singh, former professor of Sikh Studies at Punjabi University, Patiala.

Singh said that excessive political interference in the functioning of the SGPC, whether in the selection of candidates for election or the swearing-in of the president, is too glaring to be overlooked. "As per the Sikh principle of *miri piri,* religious values are supposed to dominate politics, but it appears to be the opposite. The need of the hour is to ensure that the SGPC is not controlled by one family and to let it function in a democratic and transparent manner," he said.

The century-old Akali Dal, which claims to be the sole representative of the Panthic community, suffered a drubbing in the last two Assembly elections indicating that its Panthic support base has eroded substantially. At a time when the party is going through a rough patch, the AAP's latest move could lead to more testing times. The Akali Dal has been facing charges from Opposition parties of destroying the autonomy of the SGPC and the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat.

Singh added that the Akali Dal gave up its Panthic agenda at its 1996 conference in Moga and became a Punjabi party. "As a result, many non-Sikhs not only became its members, but occupied offices of importance as well. The rich classes joined the Akali Dal to further their business interests. This resulted in the gradual alienation of Sikhs. No doubt, this has helped the Akali Dal retain power in Punjab, but there have been occasions of Sikh causes suffering at the altar of political exigency," he said.

"For fair play, no political party should be allowed to contest the SGPC election," he added. "Only well-meaning Sikhs, whatever be their political affiliations, should contest independently."

The responsibility of conducting elections for the SGPC lies with the Central government. The elections are supposed to be held after five years. The last SGPC elections were held in 2011.

The Akali Dal dismissed these allegations. "There is a democratic process for electing the SGPC body. Other parties also contest elections. If a majority of members of the Akali Dal contested and won the election, you cannot say the SGPC has become Akali Dal. A majority of us are represented in the SGPC, and the elected house and its president have the right to take decisions," said party leader Daljeet Singh Cheema.

Given the resistance from several Sikh bodies and the public, the government may find it difficult to implement its decision. Amarjit Singh, Director at the Centre on Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib at Guru Nanak Dev University, said the government's decision was wrong because it is the SGPC that has the right to take decisions on gurdwara affairs under the 1925 Act. "Even though several Sikhs would want the Gurbani telecast to be available on as many different channels as possible, the manner in which the government has acted has largely been unacceptable to the Sikhs. The government should have deliberated the issue with the SGPC and others," he said.

He also pointed out that Sikhs have never accepted interference in their affairs. "In 2015, the Akali Dal was in power. The SGPC, which was in its control, arranged an Akal Takht-stamped pardon to Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in the 2007 blasphemy case. Yet, the party faced a severe backlash from the Sikhs, and the pardon edict had to be rescinded. This shows that Sikhs do not accept government interference in religious matters."

From Page One

After high drama, Biren' drops resignation plan

The BJP later announced that Mr. Singh had decided against quitting, in order to honour the sentiments of the people and civil society organisations. Leaders of the Congress and other political parties termed it a chair-saving drama.

Neither Home Minister Amit Shah nor the central BJP leadership had instructed the Chief Minister to step down, an associate of Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Singh is believed to have made up his mind to quit after abuses were hurled at him during a protest in Imphal on Thursday night.

While a section of the people in the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley are rallying behind Mr. Singh, the Kuki community in the hills – including seven BJP legislators – have been demanding his resignation, as well as a separate tribal administration.

Governor has no power to sack a Minister: Stalin

Holding that the Cabinet and his MLAs enjoyed the confidence of the people, who are the ultimate sovereign, Mr. Stalin said that "high constitutional authorities like the Governor, while dealing with an elected government, must act with dignity and not stoop to levelling veiled unsubstantiated threats about 'breakdown of constitutional machinery'".

Distinguishing between a person facing investigation, a person against whom charges have been framed, and a person convicted by a court, Mr. Stalin said that it was only in the third category of cases that a person attracted disqualification, from holding office as Minister or legislator as per the judgement of the Supreme Court.

Mr Stalin also questioned the Governor's "inexplicable silence" on the government's request for sanctions to investigate and prosecute former Ministers and public servants for offences committed during the tenure of the previous AIADMK government, "which have been languishing in your office for months together".

Twitter plea on Centre's block orders dismissed

This included whether reasons should be communicated to the user whose tweet is blocked, and whether the blocking of tweets should be period-specific, or if tweets can be blocked for an indefinite period of time. Only one of them has been answered in favour of Twitter.

This includes the plea of Twitter to issue guidelines to the Centre, for the exercise of its powers under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

The Centre had directed the microblogging site to block 1,474 accounts, 175 tweets, 256 URLs, and one hashtag. Twitter had, however, approached the court challenging the orders pertaining to 39 of these URLs.

Referring to the blocking orders, Twitter claimed, in its petition, that the orders 'fall foul of Section 69A, both substantially and procedurally', and that no notice was issued by the Union Ministry to these account-holders.

The Centre had contended that Twitter, being a foreign company, cannot invoke the fundamental rights guaranteed to Indian citizens and companies under the Constitution of India.

In talk with Putin, Modi calls for 'dialogue and diplomacy' to end war in Ukraine

Kremlin says PM expressed support for Putin's decisive actions on Wagner mutiny, discussed SCO summit, U.S. visit, bilateral projects and trade; Russia indicates that Putin may attend the G-20 summit in September; China confirms that Xi will attend the SCO summit via video-conference

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Days after his return from the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, calling once again for "dialogue and diplomacy" to end the Ukraine conflict, while "expressing support" for Mr. Putin's actions during the June 24 failed mutiny in Russia.

During the conversation, which the Kremlin said had occurred "at the initiative of the Indian side", Mr. Modi also spoke about upcoming contacts between the two leaders at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) virtual summit on July 4, and the BRICS and G-20 summits in August and September, and informed Mr. Putin about his recent visit to Washington. On Friday, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif confirmed they will attend the virtual summit, as will leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

"President Putin informed PM about the recent developments in Russia," said a statement issued by the government. "While discussing the situation in Ukraine, PM reiterated his call for dialogue and diplomacy," it said.

In a more detailed statement, the Kremlin said that Mr. Putin had given his assessment of the current situation in the "special military operation zone" in Ukraine, adding that he "stressed Kiev's utter refusal to undertake political and diplomatic steps to resolve the conflict".

"In connection with the events of June 24 in Russia, Narendra Modi expressed

One to one: Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) greets Vladimir Putin before a meeting in New Delhi in December 2021. AFP

understanding and support for the decisive actions of the Russian leadership to protect law and order, ensure stability in the country and the security of its citizens," said the statement issued by the Kremlin, referring to the short-lived rebellion by Wagner militia group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who had attempted a march on Moscow before calling it off and fleeing to Belarus. On Thursday, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev had spoken to National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and briefed him on the developments.

Apart from the PM's visit to Washington, the statement said the two leaders had spoken about bilateral projects and trade, and paid "particular attention" to interactions within the SCO and the G-20, in a possible indicator that President Putin intends to travel to Delhi for the G-20 summit on September 9-10.

China's stand

China's Foreign Ministry on Friday confirmed Mr. Xi would attend the SCO summit via video-conference as well.

"President Xi Jinping will deliver important remarks at the meeting, and together with other participating leaders, chart the course for the future growth," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning at a briefing in Beijing, adding that the other countries want the SCO to play a "bigger role in safeguarding regional security and promoting common development".

Since the military standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) began in April 2020, Mr. Modi and President Xi have not spoken directly, with the exception of a brief meeting and exchange of greetings at the G-20 summit in Bali in 2022. They both also attended last year's SCO summit in Samarkand, but did not have any public contact during the meeting, and have attended a number of virtual multilateral conferences.

Pakistan Prime Minister Sharif would also attend the summit, said the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adding that SCO leaders would "chart the future direction of cooperation" and would induct Iran as a new member.

(with inputs from Ananth Krishnan)

India backs 2016 ruling favouring the Philippines in South China Sea

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

As negotiations continue between China and the ASEAN bloc for a code of conduct in the South China Sea – which diplomatic sources described as a "complex exercise" involving 11 countries – India called for adherence to the 2016 arbitration decision in favour of the Philippines, which has been rejected by China.

A joint statement issued after talks between Enrique A. Manalo, the visiting Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, and his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar on Thursday said that the two leaders "underlined the need for peaceful settlement of disputes and for adherence to international law, especially the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea in this regard."

Mr. Manalo, who arrived in India on an official visit on June 27, concluded his visit on Friday.

Bilateral ties: Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar (right) with his Philippines counterpart Enrique Manalo in New Delhi. PTI

China disagrees

The Philippines had instituted an arbitration proceeding against China in the Permanent Court of Arbitration under UNCLOS on January 22, 2013. The court ruled in favour of Manila on July 12, 2016, but this was rejected by China, which had called it "null and void." China, which claims rights to most of the resource-rich South China Sea up to the nine-dash line, has become more assertive in recent years, leading to flare-ups in the region.

On the ongoing negotiations on a code of conduct, the source said that it involved a lot of details and 11 countries. Though it has a common agenda, ASEAN does not have a common stance on all issues, given the differing views of its member nations. "It goes into a lot of details like what to do and what rules to observe when there is a collision at sea, how to deal with third parties. Also in the end, we have to agree if the code is legally binding or not, and if so who will enforce it, and if it is not legally binding, then what is its status. Negotiations are going on regularly at the technical and legal levels," the source added.

Seeking support

Referring to the 2016 arbitral ruling, the anniversary of which is in two weeks, the source noted that China does not recognise the ruling and did not participate in the deliberations at The Hague.

On the Philippines' ongoing tensions with China, the source said that Manila was also doing other things beyond the 2016 ruling to deal with the actual issue, which is the "presence of China in the South China Sea". Manila is trying to send as many assets there as possible, to show that it is the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone, even while stressing that it only wants to "assert its rights and protect its fishermen".

Build bridges and bring peace, says Rahul in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday urged the people of Manipur to strive for peace as violence is not the solution.

After meeting Governor Anusuiya Uikey at the Raj Bhavan in the State's capital Imphal, he told journalists that he visited Manipur to share the pain of the people and do whatever it takes to bring peace.

"Violence will not get anything for anybody. Peace is the way forward and the most important thing," Mr. Gandhi said, asking everyone to now start building bridges.

No political statement

He declined to comment on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the crisis in Manipur. "I have not come here to make any political statement," he said.

The Congress leader said he visited the relief camps and met people from all communities in Churachandpur, and Imphal Valley.

Rahul Gandhi

"The basic amenities in the camps and food need to be improved. Medicines need to be supplied," he said before leaving for New Delhi after a two-day visit.

Mr. Gandhi arrived in Manipur around 11 a.m. on Thursday and tried to drive to the Kuki-majority Churachandpur district in a convoy of vehicles. But the police stopped him at Bishnupur midway, citing the prevailing tense situation.

Muslim driver lynched by vigilantes in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

A 55-year-old disabled Muslim driver, Mohammad Zahiruddin, was killed by a mob alleging that he was carrying beef, in Saran district of Bihar around midnight on Thursday.

The incident occurred in Saran district, when the truck, heading towards Gaura, broke down in the middle of the road, forcing the driver to stop to repair it. Police officials said that when the driver started looking for help, some villagers, smelling meat and bone, asked what was being transported. Suspecting that beef was being transported, they started beating him.

Later, he was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. Saran SP Gaurav Mangla said that seven people were held and searches were being conducted to arrest others.

Multiple rings of security welcome pilgrims lining up for the Amarnath Yatra

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Multiple rings of security have been thrown around the Amarnath shrine in Kashmir as 3,488 pilgrims arrived in the Valley on Friday, a day ahead of the 62-day-long pilgrimage starting from the twin bases of Pahalgam and Sonamarg.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of pilgrims from Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar in a convoy of 164 vehicles. Around 1,491 pilgrims will halt at the Baltal base camp and 1,997 at the Pahalgam base camp. They will proceed to the cave shrine, located at an altitude of 14,000 feet.

The Baltal-shrine route in Sonamarg is a 14-km trek on foot and the Chandanwari-shrine in Pahalgam is a 32-km trek.

Pilgrims' progress: First batch of pilgrims in Sonamarg prepare to move towards the Amarnath cave. NISSAR AHMAD

The Army, the J&K police and the CRPF have chalked out coordinated security rings in the wake of security threats.

Sources said a strict vigil will be maintained on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, "where vulnerable points exist". Motor vehicle checkpoints will increase the frequency of patrols on the highways and maintain night domination too, official sources said. Drones will be deployed by the J&K police too to maintain a round-the-clock monitoring.

The Army is deploying anti-drone equipment at yatra camps in south and central Kashmir.

In the wake of cloud burst and flash floods witnessed during yatra last year, the CRPF has also put in place comprehensive disaster management protocols "for swift and timely response".

UCC draft for Uttarakhand will be out soon: panel

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

From gender equality to elimination of arbitrariness and discrimination, from uniform laws on property rights to adoption rules, the draft of Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for Uttarakhand has taken all these aspects into account, said retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, on Friday. Justice Desai, who is heading the UCC committee formed by the State, also confirmed that the draft of the UCC is ready and is at a printing stage after which it will be submitted to the State government.

She added that the Committee has painstakingly taken into account all shades of opinions and looked into the various statutes and uncodified laws including the statutory framework in select countries.

Webinar on UPSC exam preparation

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chinmaya Academy for Civil Services (CACS), a unit of Chinmaya Mission, and *The Hindu Education Plus* will present a webinar on preparation for the Union Public Service Commission examination.

The webinar titled 'Decoding IAS: Conquer the Exam, Achieve Your Dream!' will be held on July 2 at 11.30 a.m. as part of the career counselling series.

The speakers are N. Gopalaswami, former Chief Election Commissioner; Gagandeep Singh Bedi, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Tamil Nadu and Jaghadeeshwaran R., Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, Karnataka and Goa region. Soma Basu, Senior Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*, will moderate the discussion. To register, visit bit.ly/3NxeOza

CACS was launched in July 2017 to train candidates for the civil service examinations. It has courses for graduates, working professionals and college students pursuing degree courses. The training is conducted in the classroom and online for a duration ranging from 10 months to three years. Merit-cum-means scholarships are available.

Over 150 students have received coaching and 28 students have been placed in various administrative services. This year's batch commenced on June 25.

29 DNA samples of kin match with Odisha victims

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

After waiting close to a month following the June 2 train accident in Odisha's Balasore district that left 293 people dead, five families were finally handed over bodies of their loved ones on Friday.

This was possible after 29 out of the 85 DNA samples drawn from relatives matched with that of the victims' bodies preserved at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bhubaneswar.

Railway sources said transport arrangements were being made to send the bodies to their native places. A total of 81 bodies were preserved at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, however, 85 claimants gave DNA samples to establish the identity. The accident involving three trains was so severe that many bodies were beyond recognition.

The Hindu Learning Corner wins global award

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu ePaper Learning Corner has won the second prize at the WAN-IFRA (World Association of News Publishers) Digital Media Awards Worldwide 2023 under the best ePaper concept category.

The Learning Corner is a dedicated space in the *The Hindu* e-Paper that seeks to help readers prepare for competitive exams. It has daily updates tuned for competitive exams.

Existing users of *The Hindu* ePaper can access Learning Corner free of cost while others may have to register with Learning Corner for access. WAN-IFRA's Digital Media Awards Worldwide was instituted to recognise news publishers who have delivered unique and original digital media projects.

Centre invites ideas from public to curb tomato prices

Students, research scholars, teachers, industries, start-ups and professionals can participate in 'Tomato Grand Challenge Hackathon'; govt. taking preventive steps to keep onion prices stable

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre announced a 'Tomato Grand Challenge Hackathon' here on Friday, requesting the public to suggest innovative ideas to reduce the tomato prices, surging for the past few weeks.

A similar exercise was done when onion prices increased some time ago. Union Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said his Ministry had then received 13 ideas on adding value and controlling the prices of onion.

Students, research scholars, teachers, industries, start-ups and professionals can participate in the new contest. Mr. Singh said the ideas could be on tomato value chain to ensure its availability to consumers at affordable prices and help farmers get value for the produce. The hackathon has been formulated by the Department of Consumer Affairs in collaboration with Education Ministry's Innovation Cell.

Gets dearer: Tomato prices are soaring with the retail price crossing ₹100 for a kg in many parts of the country. PTI

"The cycle of planting and harvesting seasons and the variation across regions are primarily responsible for price seasonality in tomato. Apart from this, temporary supply chain disruptions and crop damage due to adverse weather conditions etc. often lead to sudden spikes in prices," Mr. Singh said.

Onion availability

To ensure that onion prices do not rise during the upcoming festival season and winter, the Consumer Affairs Ministry had asked the Union Agriculture Ministry to give incentives to farmers to cultivate onion during the ongoing kharif season, Mr. Singh told reporters. "The country's onion production is estimated at 319 lakh tonnes in 2023, slightly lower than 324 lakh tonnes in the previous year," he said.

Adding that the Centre had procured three lakh tonnes for buffer stock, he said: "The moment onion availability is ensured throughout the calendar year, prices will fall."

After stock limits, India to import 12 lakh tonnes of tur dal to keep prices in check

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Facing a sharp rise in prices of tur dal amid low production, India will import 12 lakh tonnes of the pulse in the current fiscal, up by 35% from last year's, to boost domestic availability and contain price rise.

"Tur is giving us trouble. All-India average retail price of tur is up by 25% to ₹128.66 per kg, when compared with last year's level. But it will start cooling down after import begins," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said in a media briefing on Friday.

The issue in tur (pigeon peas) is low domestic production. The country's tur production remained low at 30 lakh tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) against 39 lakh tonnes last year.

The country had imported 8.9 lakh tonnes of tur during the 2022-23 fiscal.

"We consume around 44-45 lakh tonnes in India. Every year, we have to import. This year, obviously, we have to import more. We will import 12 lakh tonnes in the current fiscal," Mr. Singh said.

So far, the country has imported 6 lakh tonnes of tur. Imports are undertaken from Myanmar and East African countries. As it will start arriving from East African countries in August, the domestic prices will cool down, he added. The country imported 8.9 lakh tonnes of tur during the 2022-23 fiscal.

Other measures

To check the prices of tur, the Secretary said the government has taken several measures. The stock limit imposed on traders, millers and importers on June 2 has helped bring down the prices. "From the day the stock limit was imposed, there is a downward trend in prices," he noted.

The government has also decided to offload 50,000 tonnes from the buffer stock in the market, Mr. Singh added.

Besides tur, the Secretary said, there is about a 7.22% increase in the all-India average retail price of urad on June 28, when compared to the last year.

SEBI's new rules for some FPIs point to an admission of guilt, says Congress leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The decision by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to mandate enhanced disclosure requirements for some foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) point to a "clear admission of guilt" by the market regulator in the wake of the Supreme Court's expert committee recommendations, the Congress said on Friday.

In a statement, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asserted that SEBI's investigation has limited scope and only a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe can fully unravel "the Adani scam".

Jairam Ramesh

His statement followed the SEBI Board approving a proposal to amend the FPI rules on Wednesday. Under the proposed framework, FPIs with concentrated single group equity exposures or significant equity holdings will be mandated to make additional granular disclosures.

"The Supreme Court's expert committee used soft but damning language regarding SEBI's approach to the Adani mega scam. It claimed that there was no regulatory failure by SEBI but rather 'piquantly' went on to describe a number of major regulatory failings, including the rewriting of rules that allowed opaque overseas funds to be invested in Adani companies in huge quantities. The reintroduction of strict reporting rules following the SEBI board's 28 June, 2023 meeting represents a public admission of guilt by the regulatory body," Mr. Ramesh said.

He said SEBI's move was a belated attempt to increase transparency regarding financial flows.

Delhi moves SC to quash Ordinance giving L-G control over services

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday urged the Supreme Court to quash an Ordinance which slips control over civil servants back into the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) while reducing the Chief Minister into a "minority voice" in the capital's administration.

The Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party government said the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 was promulgated within just eight days of the Supreme Court's May 11 verdict in favour of the authority of Delhi government to make laws and administer civil services in the national capital.

The May 11 judgment of a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had limited the role of the L-G over bureaucrats in the capital to three specific areas – public order, police and land.

> ...The ordinance shows contempt for the elected Assembly and government while making a pretence of their involvement through the Chief Minister
>
> **PETITION BY DELHI GOVERNMENT**

"The Ordinance has now wrested control over civil servants serving in Delhi from the Government of NCT of Delhi to the unelected Lieutenant Governor... It has done so without seeking to amend the Constitution, in particular Article 239AA, which holds that the power and control over services should be vested in the elected government," the Delhi government, represented by advocate Shadan Farasat, submitted.

The government said the Ordinance upends the Constitution Bench judgment without "altering its basis", that is, explaining why the court's decision to give the authority over services to the elected government was wrong in law.

The petition challenges provisions in the ordinance which mandates the formation of a "permanent" National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA) with the Chief Minister, as chairperson, and the Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary as Member and Member-Secretary, respectively.

"... the Ordinance shows contempt for the elected Assembly and government while making a pretence of their involvement through the Chief Minister," the petition contended.

The government said that by giving the L-G a final say, the dual scheme of governance envisioned in Article 239AA has suffered a collapse. Under the Article, the L-G enjoys a discretion only in matters following outside the Delhi government's legislative and executive domain. In all other issues, the L-G is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

Tushar Mehta reappointed as S-G for three years

Tushar Mehta

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet on Friday approved the reappointment of Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor-General of India. The reappointment is for three years, beginning on July 1, 2023. The committee also approved the reappointment of six Additional Solicitor-Generals of India for the same period.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
MANGALORE
TENDER NOTICE NO. DCE-CN-MAQ-OT-01-2023 DATED 26.06.2023
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/I /Construction, Southern Railway, Ernakulam, invites ONLINE tender for the following works.
Name of the work: Doubling of track between MAJN – PNMB Section – Proposed construction of Electrical Control room at MAJN and Interior works of newly constructed camp office at the first floor of DY.CE/O/CN/MAQ.
Tender Value: ₹ 94.40 Lakhs
Completion Period: 09 months
Date of Opening: 27.07.2023 @ 11.00 Hrs
Complete details & tender document will be available at **http://www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No: SA-E2-2023-24-W1
The Divisional Railway Manager/ Electrical/Salem Division, Salem-5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted For detailed NIT Qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc can be viewed/downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**
E-Tender Notice No. Date and Name of Work: 5) SA-E2-2023-24-W1 Dt. 27.06.2023. Southern Railway: Modification of existing overhead power line crossing by underground cable in southern railway – over SA division (22Kv – 3 NOs) – Balance Work – Electrical arrangements – Reg.
Approx cost: ₹ 37,42,506/-
EMD: ₹ 74,900/-
Completion Period: 90 Days
For all the works Closing Time & Date: 15:00 hrs. on 19.07.2023
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date: 15:00 hrs on 19.07.2023
All Addendum Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc., will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. EM/WS-19/2023
File No.EM/WS/TECH-07/2023/928
Date : 23/06/2023
Name of the work : " Grant of license for Supply, Installation Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of 03 Nos. 100 Ton Capacity HMCs." Last date and time of submission of bid : Dt.02.08.2023 up to 1800 hrs.
Refer our website for details: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
Executive Engineer (M),
Workshop Division-I,
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/28/2023-24, Dt.28/06/23

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTICE NO. OHE-CN-DYCEE-23-24-07-190
DATE: 27.06.2023
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ OHE Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.
"Shifting of OHE utilities including modification to existing OHE at Karaikal station in connection with the laying of new BG line between Peralam and Karaikal stations in Tiruchchirappalli division of Southern Railway."
Tender Value : ₹ 36,20,507.62
Tender closing date and time: 20.07.2023 at 11:00 hrs
For more details visit **www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SG-CNMTP-23-2-CHSM-KALK DT. 27.06.2023
For and behalf of the President of India, the Executive Signal and Telecom Engineer, Construction and Metropolitan Transport Project, Southern Railway, Chennai - 31 invites ONLINE tenders for the following works.
"Provision of Electronic Interlocking Signalling arrangements (Both Indoor & outdoor) at Chinnasalem & Kallakkurichi stations on Salem Division in connection with Construction of New Line between Chinnasalem and Kallakurichi"
Approximate Cash value: ₹ 2625.78 lakhs
Bid Security: ₹ 14,62,900/-
Period of Completion: 6 months
Date and time of tender closing: 20.07.2023 at 14.00 hrs.
For further details refer Website address: **www.ireps.gov.in**
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : (1) 43/2023-24/KWA/PHC/TVLA (Id - 78/2022_26_3_2/1), (2) 44/2023-24/KWA/PHC/TVLA (Id - 10242/2022_26_2_1/2) **(1) JJM -** WSS to Aranmula - Construction of 22.5 LL OHSR and supply, laying 350mm DI K9 clear water Pumping main from WTP to OHSR at Paruthanpara, **(2) JJM -** 3 Kallooppara GP Providing balance 3201 FHTCs and replacing old and damaged pipelines including road restoration. **EMD :** Rs. 200000, 200000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 13010, 13010, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 21-07-2023, 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 04692600162.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-576-2023-24 PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN-628 004
SAGARMALA
GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Only Through E-Tendering Mode)
VOCPA E-Tendering Website : https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
E(C) / F.59 / PD/ NCB III Dredging /E 3845/2023/D. 1944 Date: 30.06.2023
V.O.Chidambaranar Port re-invites tenders (Online tenders) in "Two bid system" from interested, reputed,well experienced,Dredging Companies having necessary dredging and other ancillary equipments for carrying out this dredging work.

Name of work	Dredging the dock basin in front of North Cargo Berth III to (-)15.10m for handling of vessels up to 14.20m draught at V.O.Chidambaranar Port
Estimated value of work put to tender (in Indian Rupees)	Rs.109.14 Crores
Period of contract including mobilization and demobilization	7 months (Seven Months)
Downloading of Tender from VOCPA online e- tendering website	01.07.2023 to 22.07.2023
Last date and time for submission of Tender through online	22.07.2023 upto 15.00 hours (IST)
Online Technical Bid opening date and time	24.07.2023 at 10.30 hours (IST)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 1,34,14,000/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Four Lakhs and Fourteen Thousand Only). Mode of payment as under: Rs.25,00,000 (Rupees twenty five lakhs only)shall be paid in the form of RTGS/NEFT through CPP Portal as per cl 10.1 (section II) of Tender document. Rs.1,09,14,000/- (Rupees One Crore Nine Lakhs and Fourteen Thousand Only) in the form of Bank Guarantee in prescribed Proforma attached along with Tender Document as per cl 10.1 (section II)of Tender document.
Validity of offer	180 days

For further details, visit port Website: www.vocport.gov.in
Ph.No : 0461-2352270, Fax: 0461-2352274
Email :ce@vocport.gov.in,vocportce@gmail.com
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 26-06-2023 to 28-06-2023
Forest Department
Tender ID: 2022_FD_539574_4 * Deputy Director * Construction, supplying, registration, navigation and mainte * Closing Date: 07-Jul-2023 * PAC: Rs29500000
Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:26-28/Jun/2023/PRD/(N)5

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER IRRIGATION CIRCLE CAD CHAMBAL KOTA
Tel. Office. 0744-2500149, Email:- seirrgcad@rajasthan.gov.in
No:- F-4968 **Date:-** 20/06/2023
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/2023-24
Bids for the following works are invited from "AA" Class category or equivalent contractors/firms registered in CAD/Water Resources Department and State Government/Other State Government/Authorized organizations of Central Government/CPWD/Post and telegraph department/Railway etc. interested bidders up to 06:00 PM dated 16.07.2023:-

S. No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Lining work of balance reaches 10.92 Km length of Jatwari Minor, Gopalpura Minor, Udipura Minor, Gaudi Minor, tail Minor off-taking from Etawa branch canal of RMC CAD Kota.	457.43

Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & http://www.sppp/raj.nic.in
NIB CODE :- CDK2324A0018
UBN No.:- CDK2324WSOB00069
Superintending Engineer
Irrigation Circle CAD Chambal Kota
DIPR/C/9357

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. CIRCLE DAUSA
क्रमांक :- 869-885 दिनांक: 21.06.2023
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for (1) Improvement/Rectification of various roads in Nagar Palika Lalsot Under Package No. RJ-12-011/LSG/ Civil/Deposit/2023-24. (2) Improvement/Rectification of various roads in Nagar Palika Bhandarej Under Package No. RJ-12-14/LSG/ Civil/Deposit/2023-24 District dausa, under Scheme for the Budget Declaration Year 2023-24, Circle Dausa (Provision of Defect liability period is 5 Years) are invited from interested bidders upto 05.07.2023 Time 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and Public Works department Rajasthan website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 693.00 Lacs.
UBN.....

कार्य का नाम	UBN No.
Improvement/Rectification of various roads in Nagar Palika Lalsot Under Package No. RJ-12-011/LSG/ Civil/Deposit/2023-24	(PWD2324WSOB06335)
Improvement/Rectification of various roads in Nagar Palika Bhandarej Under Package No. RJ-12-14/LSG/ Civil/Deposit/2023-24	(PWD2324WSOB06336)

(Chandan Singh)
Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Dausa
DIPR/C/9373

KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT (KSCSTE)
Sasthrabhavan, Pattom. Thiruvananthapuram - 695004,
Phone: 0471 - 2548316, website: www.kscste.kerala.gov.in
NOTIFICATION
The KSCSTE is seeking qualified candidates for the post of
1. Director, KSCSTE - JNTBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram
2. Director, KSCSTE - KFRI, Thrissur
3. KSCSTE - MBGIPS, Kozhikode
4. Director, KSCSTE - SRIBS, Kottayam,
5. Director, KSCSTE - ICCS, Kottayam and
6. Director, KSCSTE - KSoM, Kozhikode

For details logo on to **www.kscste.kerala.gov.in.**
Last date for the receipt of application is **31.07.2023, 5.00 p.m**
Executive Vice President

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058
Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094182, 4541
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE
1. On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works.

NIT No.	ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/ETender-19/2023-24 Dated: 28.06.2023
Name of work	Annual Service Contract for Operation of Electrical installation at different locations in ISDN campus, Byalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru
Estimated Cost put to Tender	Rs. 59.61 Lakhs
Tender Document Details	E-Tender
Period of completion	12 Months (With a provision to extend the contract for a period of two more years with same terms and conditions)
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 16.00 hrs on 30.06.2023 to 24.07.2023 till 16.00 hrs.
Bid Clarifications	From 11.00 hrs on 01.07.2023 to 25.07.2023 till 16.00 hrs.
Last date of reply to Bid Clarifications	26.07.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	27.07.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	28.07.2023 after 11.00 hrs.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 1,19,220/-

2. Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/- Group Head, CMG

INBRIEF

Kishan Reddy to represent India at New York SDGs meet

India will expound on how development of tourism can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to be held in New York in July. The HLPF is the central United Nations platform for the review of the 2030 agenda for SDGs. The theme for this year is "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels". Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy would represent India, said a senior official.

Ahead of Assembly elections, poll bonds sale from July 3

The government on June 30 approved the issue of the 27th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on July 3. The decision comes ahead of the Assembly elections of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram. Poll dates are likely to be announced in two months. Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency to political funding. The State Bank of India (SBI has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from July 3-12, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. PTI

Centre to issue norms against 'dark patterns' in online ads

Concerned over the increasing "dark patterns" of misleading advertisements, creating false urgency, confirm-shaming, forced action, subscription traps and nagging on online platforms, the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry has decided to issue specific guidelines to control them. Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary of the Ministry, on Friday urged consumers to flag manipulative online practices on the National Consumer Helpline number '1915' or WhatsApp message to 8800001915. He asked platforms to refrain from adopting 'dark patterns'.

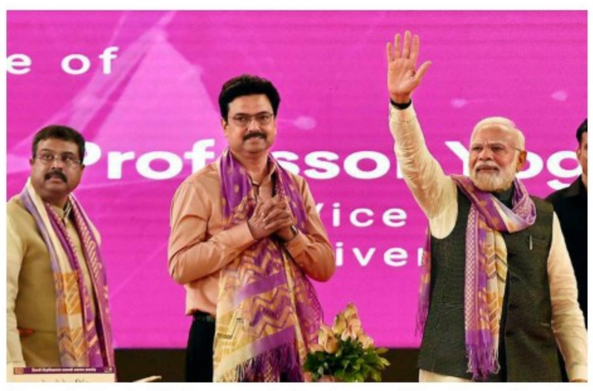
Youth looking beyond jobs and are filing patents, founding start-ups: PM

Speaking at an event to mark the centenary of Delhi University, he said universities played a crucial role in giving concrete shape to the emotional swell of post-Independence India by creating a strong generation of talented youngsters

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian universities are seeing a significant improvement in their international standing because of futuristic policies and decisions in the education sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, noting that there are now 45 Indian universities in the QS World University Rankings, a sharp growth from just 12 in 2014.

Speaking at the valedictory event of the year-long centenary celebrations of Delhi University, the Prime Minister credited India's youth for transcending the concept of education being limited to placement and degrees by filing more patents and establishing start-ups. "The third decade of the last century [when DU was founded] gave new momentum to the struggle for India's Independence. Now the third decade of the new century will give impetus to the development journey of India. The large number of upcoming universities, colleges, IITs, IIMs and AIIMS are becoming the building blocks of new India," Mr. Modi said.



Narendra Modi with Dharmendra Pradhan and Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University Yogesh Singh. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Over the past 100 years, the DU has not only kept its emotions alive but also kept its values vibrant, Mr. Modi said. "The goal of DU was India's Independence when it began, but now that the institution will complete 125 years when India reaches 100 years of independence, the goal of Delhi University should be to make India a developed India," he said.

Underscoring the importance of knowledge, the Prime Minister noted that when India had vibrant universities such as Nalanda and Takshashila, it was at the peak of prosperity. However, continuous attacks during the period of slavery destroyed these institutions, leading to an obstruction of the intellectual flow of India and bringing growth to standstill, he said. "After Independence, universities played a crucial role in giving concrete shape to the emotional swell of post-Independence India by creating a strong generation of talented youngsters. Delhi University too played a major part in that," he said.

Talking about the flexibility that the new National Education Policy (NEP) gives students with regard to selecting subjects, Mr. Modi said that education was not merely a process of teaching but also a way of learning. After a long time, the focus is shifting to what a student wants to learn, he said.

DGCA issues advisory on illegal cockpit entry in flights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The DGCA issued an advisory to airlines to ensure that there is no unauthorised entry in the cockpit.

"All Heads of Operations are hereby advised to sensitise their pilots and cabin crew members to strictly follow the Aeronautical Information Circular and prevent any unauthorised entry in the cockpit. Any non-compliance of the applicable regulation shall be dealt with strictly and may also invite stringent enforcement action," said Ravindra Kumar, Director, Flight Standards Directorate.

Last week, the DGCA suspended an Air India pilot for a year and his co-pilot for a month after they permitted a woman friend in the cockpit.

Centre hikes interest rates for small savings schemes for Q2

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday raised interest rates on select saving schemes by up to 0.3% for the July-September quarter in line with the high-interest rates in the banking system.

The highest increase of 0.3% was for the five-year recurring deposit. During the second quarter of the current fiscal, RD holders would get 6.5% against the existing 6.2%, as per the Finance Ministry notification. A one-year term deposit with post offices will now earn 0.1% higher.

However, interest rates on term deposits for three years and five years have been retained at 7% and 7.5%, respectively. The interest rates for popular PPF and savings deposits are retained at 7.1% and 4%, respectively.

The interest rate on the senior citizen savings scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is 8.2% and 7.5%, respectively.

There is no increase in interest rate for Monthly Income Scheme, and this will earn 7.4 per cent for the investors.

As El Nino is yet to strengthen, IMD forecasts 'normal' rainfall during July

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday forecast "normal" rainfall in July, which usually receives the highest amount of rain during the monsoon months. This means it will be within 6% of the 28 cm that is usual for the month.

"Normal to above normal rainfall is most likely over most parts of central India and adjoining south peninsular and east India ... below normal rainfall is most likely over many parts of northwest, northeast and southeast peninsular India," the IMD said in a statement.

The forecast is significant given that this is expected to be an El Nino year, which most often leads to below normal rainfall in India.

July is also the month when sowing of the kharif crop, particularly rice, peaks. Rainfall in this period significantly influences agricultural output.

> Normal to above normal rainfall is most likely over most parts of central, south peninsular and east India
> **INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**

Cyclone effect

This year, Cyclone Biparjoy obstructed the normal onset of the monsoon over Kerala and contributed to depressed rainfall over most parts of the country, particularly the regions most dependent on rainwater for agriculture.

Central India has received 6% less rainfall than what is usual for the region in June and southern India close to 45% less. June, overall, has witnessed 10% less rainfall than what is normal for the month. M. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said that rain had picked up in the recent weeks. As El Nino is yet to strengthen, good rain is expected in most parts of India until July 13, as per the IMD's weather models.

Past data suggested that in most of the recent El Nino years, June rainfall was normal. In 16 of the 25 years when June rainfall was 'below normal', July rainfall was 'normal'.

In June, the IMD said that rainfall in the June-September period was likely to be 'normal' or 96% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 87 cm.

Breaking taboo, women hitch up saris and play kabaddi for 'liberation'

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

Forty-year-old Mahananda Vishal Patil from Dhanora village at Beed in Maharashtra never got the opportunity to play a game after she attained puberty. "When I heard there was a kabaddi tournament in the village, I went to watch it. One of the players didn't turn up and the organisers were asking if somebody would like to play. I knew it was my one chance to relive my childhood memories," she says.

She hitched up her sari and got into the arena, and her team won the second place in the tournament. Women in saris playing kabaddi matches are a rare sight, especially in rural Maharashtra. This is now changing, thanks to a string of recent tournaments organised by the women of Committee of Resource Organisation (CORO) India's Ekal Mahila Sangathan (Single Women's Organisation), an NGO that works for the upliftment and rights of marginalised women in the State.

Rukmini Ramesh Nagapure (46) from Beed town got married at 14 and lost her husband at 32. "Women playing sport, specially a widow, is a taboo in our region. I never thought I would ever play any outdoor game again. It felt liberating to be on the ground, laughing and screaming with joy and excitement! We didn't realise how much we had bottled up within us for years. I know it is not a big deal for many women in cities but for us, it is a lifetime opportunity," says Rukmini.

Women were dressed in saris as they could not get permission from their families to wear *salwar-kameez or kurta*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

So far, 11 tournaments have been conducted from April 28 to June 15 in 11 villages of four districts in the State – Osmanabad, Beed, Nanded and Latur.

In all, as many as 854 women between the age of 18 and 70 years played kabaddi and around 2,000 women gathered to encourage them.

In the Marathwada region, widows, single women, women who are divorced and those abandoned by their families face social ostracisation. Patriarchal norms restrict their mobility; they are expected to be confined to their homes and be caregivers. Widows are not allowed to participate in any festivities as they are considered inauspicious.

A slow change

Mahananda Chavan, one of the organising committee members of the NGO, explains, "During the last four years we have been holding meetings to discuss these patriarchal norms that restrict a woman's development. In our gatherings, we made women interact with each other. To break the ice, we made them play games."

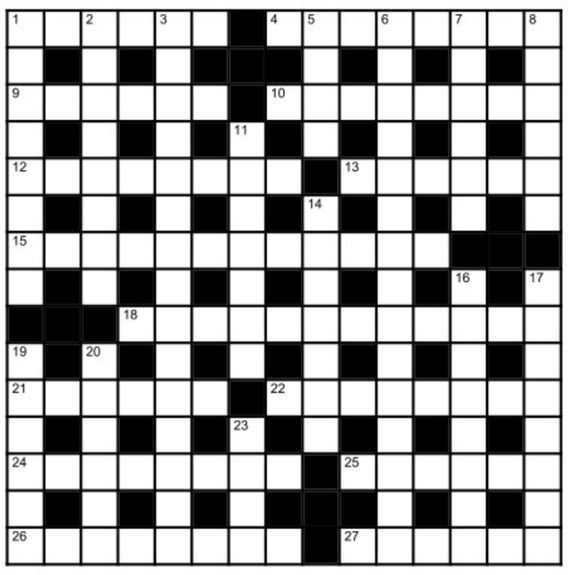
She adds that the women gradually felt comfortable enough to open up about their feelings and share stories of their childhood when they used to play numerous games such as hopscotch, kho kho and kabaddi. "They stopped playing when they reached puberty and many of them dropped out of school and were married by the age of 14 or 16. Since then we have had several discussions to normalise women playing sports, whether they are married, single or elderly," says Ms. Chavan.

TH CROSSWORD + 13906

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Start getting caught, that's very rare (6)
4 Authority rests only with a soldier (8)
9 Mention shortly, perhaps it's not late (2,4)
10 Transport portal (8)
12 Propound by writing on something very tiny (8)
13 Country cricket team, income varies (6)
15 Perhaps flash me pet! (6,6)
18 I am determined to take day off and shift before noon... (4,8)
21 ...a day rolls past as one settles in (6)
22 Tablet to block this thing in the blood (8)
24 Vessel earlier found around church (8)
25 Starts falling in line, music industry counts on movies (6)
26 Cops land in trouble during such bad weather (4,4)
27 Forbid such primitive structure in the country (6)

Down

1 Ban on worker? Yes, ban (8)
2 Ability or right to sit up through a trial (8)
3 Manifestation of intimacy - so not leading to better relationships among countries (6,2,7)
5 Make noise like an animal - it's allowed outside home (4)
6 I'm doubtful about her credential as an Hollywood actress (7,8)
7 Trade union accepts top company representative (6)
8 Regularly poaches many a wild animal (6)
11 Those with two hands maybe holding arms (7)
14 Say extremely lousy, completely (7)
16 Relish old malt whisky with Ambassador (8)
17 Maybe happiness caught in this sign (8)
19 First piggy back on cycle, it's a long distance (6)
20 Both sides have to long for her (6)
23 Star valley (4)

SUDOKU

						1		7
1					7	5		
			3			9	4	
			1		4	3	8	
		3				2		
	2	4	5		6			
	3	1			5			
		9	8					1
2		7						

No.SS5844 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	S		P		O		C		N		M		A	
D	U	B	L	I	N		L	O	O	K	O	U	T	S
	R		A		T		O		T		O		H	
T	R	O	G	L	O	D	Y	T	E		S	P	E	D
	E		I				E		W				R	
A	P	I	A		A	U	D	I	O		I	C	O	N
	T		R		N				R		R		S	
X	I	J	I	A	N	G		A	T	T	R	A	C	T
	T		S		I				H		I		L	
S	I	A	M		H	A	N	D	Y		T	W	E	E
	O				I		Y				A		R	
P	U	R	E		L	I	M	I	T	A	T	I	O	N
	S		U		A		P		I		I		S	
E	L	D	R	I	T	C	H		P	R	O	F	I	T
	Y		O		E		S		S		N		S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	7	2	6	1	4	9	8
9	8	6	5	7	4	1	3	2
1	4	2	3	9	8	5	6	7
7	6	3	9	2	5	8	4	1
2	1	9	4	8	3	6	7	5
8	5	4	6	1	7	3	2	9
4	7	5	1	3	9	2	8	6
3	2	8	7	5	6	9	1	4
6	9	1	8	4	2	7	5	3

FAITH

Sudarsana: chief of weapons

Lord Vishnu is known for several unique identities. Some of them are: holding His divine consort ever on His chest (*Sriya:pathithvam*); traversing by His official carrier Garuda *(Garuda vahanathvam);* having lotus-like eyes (*Pundarikakshathvam*); reclining on the bed of Adisesha (*Adiseshathvam*); holding the divine disc on his right hand (Chakrayudham) and the divine conch on the left hand (Sankham). The holy wheel or the divine disc never gets separated from Him.

The divine disc is also called Sri Sudarsana, which means one who shows us the good path – the path of righteousness leading to moksha (*Sukhena Dhrusyathe*). He is also called Rathanga and Hethiraja. God has 16 weapons (*Shodasa Ayudham*) and Sri Sudarsana is the chief of all weapons, said Velukudi Sri Krishnan Swamy in a discourse.

One of the defining doctrines of the Srivaishnava tradition is *Panchasamskara*, also known as *samaasrayanam*. It is a five-pronged ritual. The first one is "*Thaapam*" which means to emboss the impressions of chakra and sankha on the arms near the shoulders.

Sri Sudarsana is fearsome to enemies of devotees and cuts off all accumulated sins. He removes the sorrows of birth, ageing and death and helps devotees overcome opponents.

Sri Sudarsana Sathakam by Sri Koorathazhwan, *Hethipungavasthavam* by Sri Nadadhur Ammal, *Sri Sudarsana Ashtakam* by Sri Vedantha Desika are all in praise of Sri Sudarsana. They are highly powerful prayers and will fulfil all desires.

WASHINGTON

U.S. approves sale of ammunition worth $440 million to Taiwan

AP

The U.S. planned to sell $440 million in ammunition and parts to Taiwan, its latest effort to boost the self-ruling island's defence. The sale is comparatively small in scale and does not expand the range of U.S. weaponry to Taiwan, but comes as the United States and China move delicately to stabilise their turbulent relationship. AFP

MOSCOW

Iran to join Shanghai alliance with China, Russia next week: Lavrov

AFP

Iran will be approved as a member of the regional Shanghai Cooperation Organisation with China, Russia and Central Asian countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. Kremlin ally Belarus is also applying to join, and that next week's virtual summit would "begin the procedure" for that membership to go ahead. AFP

LONDON

Prosecutors tell U.K. court that Kevin Spacey was a 'sexual bully'

AP

Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey was described as a "sexual bully", as prosecutors opened their case against him in London for a string of alleged assaults. Spacey, 63, denies three counts of indecent assault, seven counts of sexual assault, and one count of causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent. AFP

LOS ANGELES

Alan Arkin, Oscar-winning *Little Miss Sunshine* actor, dies at 89

REUTERS

Alan Arkin, the wry character actor who demonstrated his versatility in everything from farcical comedy to chilling drama as he received four Academy Award nominations and won an Oscar in 2007 for *Little Miss Sunshine*, has died. He was 89. He was recently seen in the Netflix comedy series *The Kominsky Method*. AP

Macron urges parents to keep teens at home as govt. combats rioting

France's Interior Ministry says it has issued instructions for the complete shutdown of all public bus and tram services before sunset; government says it will work with technology companies for 'the removal of the most sensitive content'

Associated Press
PARIS

France's Interior Ministry says it has issued instructions for the complete shutdown of all public bus and tram services before sunset as the government combats rioting triggered by the deadly police shooting of a 17-year-old.

The Ministry said Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin issued the order after attending a crisis meeting on Friday led by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Mr. Darmanin instructed regional prefects to shut down bus and tram services at 9 p.m., before it gets dark, everywhere across France, the Ministry said.

Public outrage: Officials have ordered a ban on the sale of powerful fireworks, gasoline, acids and flammable liquids. AFP

The Paris region had already announced such a shutdown to protect transport workers and passengers.

Mr. Darmanin also ordered a ban on the sale and carrying of powerful fireworks, which rioters have launched at police officers and buildings, as well as on the sale of canisters of gasoline, acids and other chemicals and flammable liquids, the Ministry said. A young man died on Friday after falling from the roof of a store in northwestern France during overnight protests. The man, around 20, crashed through the roof of a supermarket that prosecutors said had not been the target of any plundering during riots overnight Thursday to Friday, they said.

French President Emmanuel Macron urged parents on Friday to keep teenagers at home and proposed restrictions on social media to quell rioting that has resulted so far in the arrests of 875 people.

After a second crisis meeting with senior Ministers, Mr. Macron said his government would work with technology companies to establish procedures for "the removal of the most sensitive content".

'Very young people'

Mr. Macron said a third of the individuals arrested on Thursday night were "young people, sometimes very young", and that "it's the parents' responsibility" to keep their children at home. "We sometimes have the feeling that some of them are living in the streets the video games that have intoxicated them," he said of rioters.

Pakistan gets a lifeline from IMF with a new $3 billion bailout to help avoid default

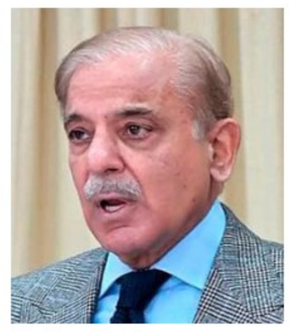
Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed to provide $3 billion to Pakistan in badly needed relief to help bail out the impoverished country's ailing economy.

The nine-month agreement must be approved by the IMF's Executive Board, which is expected to make a final decision in mid-July, a top IMF official, Nathan Porter, said.

Talks with IMF

The announcement followed talks earlier this week between Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the IMF, who both



Shahbaz Sharif

suggested that the sides were close to reaching an agreement.

Ms. Porter, the IMF's mission chief to Islamabad, said Pakistan's economy has faced several heavy blows recently, such as the devastating floods last summer that killed 1,739 people, caused $30 billion in damage and impacted millions of Pakistanis. The country was also hit by an international commodity price spike in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Acute conditions

Ms. Porter said despite the authorities' efforts to reduce imports and the trade deficit, reserves have declined to very low levels and liquidity conditions in the power sector also remain acute.

The proposed package is higher than what Pakistan was expecting as it awaited the release of a remaining tranche from a 2019 bailout of $6 billion that expired on Friday. That deal was signed by Mr. Sharif's predecessor, former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Johnson ally quits U.K. government, slams Sunak

Associated Press
LONDON

A British Environment Minister who is close to former Prime Minister Boris Johnson quit on Friday, accusing the current government of apathy toward climate issues.

While Zac Goldsmith cited environmental policies as his reason for resigning, it came after he was asked to apologise for trying to undermine a group of lawmakers who were investigating government rule-breaking. Mr. Goldsmith said he was quitting the government because Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was " uninterested" in the environment.

Court bars Bolsonaro from office for 8 years

Reuters
BRASILIA

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's political career evaporated on Friday as a majority of the federal electoral court (TSE) justices voted to bar him from public office until 2030 for his conduct during last year's election.

Four out of seven (TSE) justices voted to convict Mr. Bolsonaro for abuse of power and misuse of the media last year, when he summoned ambassadors to vent unfounded claims about Brazil's electronic voting system. Two more justices are still to vote.

Mr. Bolsonaro is accused of creating a nationwide movement to overturn the election result that culminated in the January 8 invasion of government buildings in Brasilia by his supporters.

Jair Bolsonaro

'No wrongdoing'

Mr. Bolsonaro denies any wrongdoing and has already said he plans to the Supreme Court. "I have not attacked the voting system; I just showed its possible flaws," Mr. Bolsonaro said in an interview on Friday, before the judgment.

Russian hockey player held in Poland for 'spying'

Associated Press
WARSAW

Polish authorities have detained a Russian hockey player who competed in a top Polish league on suspicion of spying, officials said on Friday.

"Russian spies are falling one by one!" said Zbigniew Ziobro, the Justice Minister and chief prosecutor.

Officials said the man, arrested on June 11, was accused of participating in an organised crime group and of acting on behalf of foreign intelligence against the interests of Poland.

Such acts are punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಗಿರಿಜನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ
ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 08272–200500

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂ: ಯೋಸಅ:ಗಿಅಯೋ:ಎ5:ಸಿಆರ್:01:2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 01–07–2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ವಿಷಯ : 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗದ ಜೇನುಕುರುಬ, ಎರವ, ಸೋಲಿಗ, ಕುಡಿಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಡುಕುರುಬ ಜನಾಂಗದವರಿಗೆ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕಾಂಶದ ಆಹಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : 1. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂ: ಸಕಇ:207:ಪವಯೋ:2018 ದಿನಾಂಕ 22–07–2019
2. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿರವರ ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ '3'ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 07–06–2023

ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗದ ಜೇನುಕುರುಬ, ಎರವ, ಸೋಲಿಗ, ಕುಡಿಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಡುಕುರುಬ ಜನಾಂಗದವರಿಗೆ ಪೌಷ್ಟಿಕ ಆಹಾರ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ(1)ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶದನ್ವಯ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ ಶುದ್ಧೀಕರಿಸಿದ 8 ಕೆಜಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ, 3 ಕೆಜಿ ತೊಗರಿಬೇಳೆ, 1 ಕೆಜಿ ಕಡಲೆಕಾಳು, 1 ಕೆಜಿ ಕಡಲೆಬೀಜ (ಶೇಂಗಾಬೀಜ), 1 ಕೆಜಿ ಅಲಸಂದೆ ಕಾಳು, 1 ಕೆಜಿ ಹುರುಳಿಕಾಳು, 1 ಕೆಜಿ ಹೆಸರುಕಾಳು, 1 ಕೆಜಿ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ, 1 ಕೆಜಿ ಬೆಲ್ಲ, 30 ಮೊಟ್ಟೆ, 2 ಲೀ. ಅಡುಗೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ 1/2 ಕೆಜಿ ನಂದಿನಿ ತುಪ್ಪವನ್ನು 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ 'ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್(eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 31–07–2023 ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ (eproc.karnataka.gov.in) ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಗಿರಿಜನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಭವನ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿರವರು ಕೋರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಗಿರಿಜನ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby notified that, my client intends to purchase the below mentioned schedule properties from its respective owners. The Owners represent that apart from them there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the schedule properties and they have instructed to carry out search report to trace the marketable title and lawful possession of the holder of the schedule properties and that the same are free from all encumbrances and have offered to sell the same to my client for consideration. Consequently, I have undertaken to carry out a search to ascertain their marketable title and lawful possession over schedule properties and the search report is in progress. Meanwhile, I am instructed to issue this Public Notice to call for objections from persons who may be interested in schedule properties or any portion thereof or having any claims against the said schedule properties or opposing sale thereof. Therefore, any person/s, financial Institutions or statutory authorities having any demand or Interest in the schedule properties or any portion thereof or intending to oppose the sale of the same or any portion thereof to third parties, may forward their written objections with supporting documents to the undersigned, within TEN (10) days from the date of publication hereof for scrutiny. Any objections received thereafter will not be considered and my client would proceed with the completion of the sale, as If there are no third party claims or interest, and if any, are deemed to have been waived

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of land situated at Begur village , Sulibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, described below:-

NAME OF THE OWNERS	Sy.No.	EXTENT		BOUNDRIES			
		Acres	Guntas	E	W	N	S
Prakash Construction Pvt Ltd	Sy:14/2	0		Sy No: 18/4	Sy No: 14/3	Sy No: 18/1A & 4	Sy:13
Prakash Construction Pvt Ltd	Sy:14/3	0		Sy No: 14/2	Sy No: 19/2	Sy No: 18/1A & 1B	Sy:13

Mr. Prakash T Hebbar, Advocate Hebbar Law Firm,
No. SF-17, 2nd Floor, Hameed Shah Complex, Cubbonpet Main Road,
Bengaluru – 560 002.
Email: hebbarlawfirm@gmail.com Mob:9980065558

SC rejects Biden's plan to wipe away $400 billion in student loan debt

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

A sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court on Friday effectively killed President Joe Biden's $400 billion plan to cancel or reduce federal student loan debts for millions of Americans.

The 6-3 decision, with conservative justices in the majority, said the Biden administration overstepped its authority with the plan, and it leaves borrowers on the hook for repayments that are expected to resume by late summer in the country.

Mr. Biden was to announce a new set of actions to protect student loan borrowers and would address the court decision later on Friday, said a White House official.

Just cause: People in favour of cancelling student debt protest outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington on Friday. AP

The court held that the administration needed Congress' endorsement before undertaking so costly a programme. The majority rejected arguments that a bipartisan 2003 law dealing with student loans, known as the HEROES Act, gave Mr. Biden the power he claimed.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a dissent, joined by the court's two other liberals, that the majority of the court "overrides the combined judgment of the Legislative and Executive Branches, with the consequence of eliminating loan forgiveness for 43 million Americans".

Payments by August

Loan repayments are expected to resume by late August under a schedule initially set by the administration and included in the agreement to raise the debt ceiling. Payments have been on hold since the start of the coronavirus pandemic more than three years ago.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO -TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC) Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058
Fax: 080-28094180, Ph:080-28094182, 4541

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, **Item rate E-Tenders** are invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/ETN-18/2023-24 Dated: 30.06.2023**
Name of work	**Annual Service Contract for the Operation of Electrical installation at MOX campus, ISTRAC, Peenya, Bengaluru**
Estimated Cost put to Tender	**Rs. 30.80 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**12 Months (With a provision to extend the contract for a period of two more years with same terms and conditions)**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs on 30.06.2023 to 17.07.2023 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid Clarifications	**From 11.00 hrs on 01.07.2023 to 18.07.2023 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date of reply to Bid Clarifications	**19.07.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**21.07.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**24.07.2023 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 61,600/-**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT MR. IFTHAQUAR ALI BHUTTO, IS THE REGISTERED SPA HOLDER AND REGISTERED AGREEMENT HOLDER OF THE PROPERTY WHICH IS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULE HEREUNDER. EXECUTED BY STANY ROBERT IN FAVOUR OF MR. IFTHAQUAR ALI BHUTTO, THE SAID SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY DATED 28.09.2017 REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO. KCH-4-00128-2017-18, STORED IN C.D NO. KCHD228 IN BOOK NO.4, REGISTERED IN OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUB-REGISTRAR, GANDHINAGAR (KHACHARAKANAHALLI) BENGALURU. AND SAID SALE AGREEMENT IS REGISTERED ON 21/06/2017 VIDE DOCUMENT NO.KCH-1-01225/2017-18, STORED IN BOOK-I CD NO. KCHD223 REGISTERED BEFORE SUBREGISTER KACHARKAHALLI BANGALORE AND STILL TODAY SAID DEEDS ARE IN FORCE.

IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCES THIS IS TO INFORM TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT STANY ROBERT AND L.SUBBARAJU BY COLLUDING WITH EACH OTHER AND BY CREATING DOCUMENTS ARE TRYING TO SELL THE SITE NO.2 MEASURING 820 SQ FT, SITE NO.4 MEASURING 1647 SQ FT, SITE NO.6 MEASURING 1200 SQ FT AND SITE NO.7 MEASURING 1200 SQ FT FORMED IN SCHEDULE PROPERTY AND THE ABOVE SAID PERSONS ARE NOT HAVING ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO DEAL WITH THE SAID PROPERTY FORMED IN SCHEDULE A PROPERTY. ANY PERSON ENTERING INTO ANY TRANSACTION WITH THE SAID PERSONS IN RESPECT OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTIES SHALL DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AND COSTS AND CONSEQUENTIAL ANY SUCH TRANSACTION WILL NOT BIND ON MY CLIENT IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY [A] : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE RESIDENTIAL SITES BEARING NO.2, SITE NO.4 SITE NO.6 AND SITE NO.7, FORMED IN NORTHERN PORTION OF PROPERTY BEARING NO. 35/1-3, ASSESSMENT NO. 35/1-3, SITUATED AT NAGAWARA VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU PRESENTLY COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE (BBMP), NEW WARD NO.23, BENGALURU, TOGETHER WITH ALL RIGHTS, APPURTENANCES, WHATSOEVER WHETHER UNDERNEATH THE SOIL OR ABOVE THE SURFACE THEREON AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:

EAST BY: PRIVATE PROPERTY (EARLIER HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS PORTION OF THE PROPERTY), WEST BY: OTHER'S PROPERTY, NORTH BY: PROPERTY IN SY.NO. 49/1 (EARLIER HAS BEEN MENTIONED AS PROPERTY IN SY. NO.41/9), SOUTH BY: REMAINING SOUTHERN PORTION OF SAME PROPERTY. TOTALLY MEASURING 11,434.5SQ FT.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY [B] : ALL THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, BEARING SITE NO.2, ASSESSMENT NO.35/1, SITUATED AT NAGAWARA VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK, BANGALORE, PRESENTLY COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE (BBMP) WARD NO.23, BANGALORE, TOTALLY MEASURING 820 SQUARE FEET, AND BOUNDED BY:

EAST BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.1 , WEST BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.3, NORTH BY : SY NO 49/1, SOUTH BY : ROAD.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY [C]: ALL THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, BEARING SITE NO.4, ASSESSMENT NO.35/1, SITUATED AT NAGAWARA VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK, BANGALORE, PRESENTLY COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE (BBMP) WARD NO.23, BANGALORE, TOTALLY MEASURING 1647 SQUARE FEET, AND BOUNDED BY:

EAST BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.5, WEST BY : SY NO.48/1B, NORTH BY : ROAD, SOUTH BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.9.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY [D] : ALL THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, BEARING SITE NO.6, ASSESSMENT NO.35/1, SITUATED AT NAGAWARA VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK, BANGALORE, PRESENTLY COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE (BBMP) WARD NO.23, BANGALORE, TOTALLY MEASURING 1200 SQUARE FEET, AND BOUNDED BY:

EAST BY : 25FT ROAD, WEST BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.5, NORTH BY : ROAD, SOUTH BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.9

SCHEDULE PROPERTY [E] : ALL THE PART AND PARCEL OF THE IMMOVABLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, BEARING SITE NO.7, ASSESSMENT NO.35/1, SITUATED AT NAGAWARA VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, BANGALORE NORTH TALUK, BANGALORE, PRESENTLY COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE (BBMP) WARD NO.23, BANGALORE, TOTALLY MEASURING 1200 SQUARE FEET, AND BOUNDED BY:

EAST BY : 25FT ROAD, WEST BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.5, NORTH BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.6, SOUTH BY : PROPERTY SITE NO.8

MARUTHI LAW ASSOCIATES
Maruthi .S, POOJAPPA, CHANDRASHEKAR, Advocates
No. 247, 17th Main, 27th Cross,2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.
Mob : +91 9148531010, +91 93410 44724, +91 90359 68727

PLACE : BANGALORE
DATE : 30/06/2023

INBRIEF

Federal Bank appoints former NPCI MD Hota as chairman

Federal Bank has appointed A.P. Hota, the former MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), as its chairman following approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI has accorded approval for the appointment of Mr. Hota as the part-time chairman of the bank with effect from June 29, 2023, till January 14, 2026. He had been serving as an independent director on the board of the bank since January 15, 2018.

Senco Gold taps capital market with ₹405-crore IPO

Jewellery manufacturer and retailer Senco Gold Ltd. has announced the opening of its ₹405-crore initial public offering (IPO) on Tuesday (July 4) with a price band of ₹301-317 per equity share of a face value of ₹10 each. The IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹270 crore and an offer for sale by selling shareholder SAIF Partners India IV Ltd.'s equity shares aggregating up to ₹135 crore. The offer will close on Thursday (July 6).

Reliance-bp starts output from MJ oil and gas field

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and its partner bp Plc on Friday announced the start of production from the MJ oil and gas field in the KG-D6 block, scaling up India's natural gas output to more than 100 million cubic metres a day. All three sets of discoveries have been progressively put into production since 2020. The discoveries at peak production will account for a third of all gas produced in the country and make up for 15% of India's demand, the companies said. PTI

May core sector growth pace brakes to 4.3%, from 19.3%

Tempo slackened on decline in production of crude oil, natural gas and electricity, official data show; eight core industries comprise 40.3% of weight of items in Index of Industrial Production

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The pace of growth of eight key infrastructure sectors slackened to 4.3% in May on account of a decline in the production of crude oil, natural gas and electricity, according to government data.

The core sector growth stood at 19.3% in May 2022.

During April-May this fiscal, the output growth of these eight sectors slowed down to 4.3% against 14.3%, the data showed.

Cause for concern

Core sector growth momentum slowed to a single digit in May from double digits a year earlier

- Production of natural gas and electricity contracted 0.3% each
- Coal output expansion slid to 7.2% from 33.5%
- Rate of growth in fertilizer, steel and cement output slid to 9.7% (22.9%), 9.2% (15.1%) and 15.5% (26.2%)

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head - Research & Outreach, ICRA Ltd. said the growth remained broadly stable in May.

"ICRA expects the y-o-y IIP (index of industrial production) growth to print at about 4-6% in May 2023." The industries comprise 40.3% of the weight of items included in the IIP.

The output of crude oil shrank by 1.9% in May.

Similarly, the production of natural gas and electricity dipped by 0.3% each. The growth rate of coal output declined to 7.2% y-o-y from 33.5%.

The rate of growth in the production of fertilizer, steel and cement slowed down to 9.7%, 9.2% and 15.5%, respectively, compared with 22.9%, 15.1% and 26.2%.

India's FY23 external debt rises to $624.7 billion: RBI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's external debt at end-March 2023 rose by $5.6 billion to $624.7 billion from the year-earlier period but the external debt-to-GDP ratio slid to 18.9% at end-March from 20% a year earlier, data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Friday show.

Valuation gains due to the appreciation of the U.S. dollar vis-à-vis the Indian rupee and major currencies such as yen, SDR, and euro were placed at $20.6 billion. Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by $26.2 billion instead of $5.6 billion at end-March 2023 over end-March 2022, the RBI said.

Long-term debt (with original maturity of above one year) was placed at $496.3 billion, logging a decline of $1.1 billion over the end-March 2022 level.

The share of short-term debt (with original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt rose to 20.6% at end-March 2023 from 19.7% a year earlier.

Dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of external debt, with a share of 54.6% at end-March 2023, followed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (29.8%), SDR (6.1%), yen (5.7%), and euro (3.2%).

Outstanding debt of government and non-government sectors rose during FY23 to $133.3 billion ($130.8 billion in FY22) and $491.3 billion ($488.3 billion), respectively.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	64,719	1.26
US Dollar	82.10	-0.08
Gold	59,030	-0.03
Brent oil	74.94	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2388.05	-13.95
Adani Ports	739.25	-17.25
Apollo Hosp	5098.20	-28.70
Asian Paints	3362.05	13.80
Axis Bank	987.45	9.25
Bajaj Auto	4691.55	-24.75
Bajaj Finserv	1528.00	9.15
Bajaj Finance	7160.60	70.40
Bharti Airtel	878.75	6.55
BPCL	364.70	-0.70
Britannia Ind	5024.55	32.40
Cipla	1014.95	5.05
Coal India	231.00	3.75
Divis Lab	3583.60	-17.95
Dr Reddys Lab	5159.60	51.75
Eicher Motors	3580.10	35.25
Grasim Ind	1734.65	-8.45
HCL Tech	1187.95	17.70
HDFC	2821.95	42.95
HDFC Bank	1701.40	25.25
HDFC Life	651.20	-0.75
Hero MotoCorp	2910.10	81.35
Hindalco	420.95	0.75
Hind Unilever	2678.15	16.90
ICICI Bank	934.60	-2.85
IndusInd Bank	1374.65	40.60
Infosys	1335.50	42.15
ITC	451.60	2.25
JSW Steel	784.80	1.40
Kotak Bank	1846.55	6.00
L&T	2475.55	54.10
M&M	1453.60	58.60
Maruti Suzuki	9789.05	248.40
NestleIndia	22894.30	150.20
NTPC	189.15	0.05
ONGC	160.30	1.75
PowerGrid Corp	255.15	5.00
Reliance Ind	2550.25	20.75
SBI Life	1306.90	7.00
State Bank	572.85	3.05
Sun Pharma	1051.60	29.80
TataConsumerProduct	860.90	5.95
Tata Motors	595.55	8.90
Tata Steel	112.00	0.45
TCS	3302.25	86.80
Tech Mahindra	1130.85	22.75
Titan	3047.65	19.55
UltraTech Cement	8294.75	34.10
UPL	687.55	7.20
Wipro	389.15	7.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 30

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.84	82.16
Euro	88.80	89.15
British Pound	103.47	103.88
Japanese Yen (100)	56.56	56.79
Chinese Yuan	11.26	11.31
Swiss Franc	90.87	91.23
Singapore Dollar	60.33	60.57
Canadian Dollar	61.66	61.90
Malaysian Ringitt	17.53	17.61
Australian Dollar	54.20	54.42

Source:Indian Bank

Centre's fiscal deficit at 11.8% of target at May-end: CGA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The central government's fiscal deficit at May-end stood at ₹2.1 lakh crore, or 11.8% of the full-year budget estimates, data of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) show.

The fiscal deficit was 12.3% of FY23 Budget Estimates a year earlier.

Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowings that are needed by the government.

Non-residents' net claims fell in Q4: RBI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Indian residents' overseas financial assets increased by $27.1 billion during the fourth quarter

The net claims of non-residents on India declined by $5.7 billion during Q4 FY23 and stood at $367.8 billion in March 2023 as per India's International Investment Position data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Indian residents' overseas financial assets increased by $27.1 billion during the quarter, which was higher than the rise in foreign-owned assets in India ($ 21.4 billion), and led to the decline in net claims of non-residents.

Reserve assets rose for the second successive quarter and accounted for 64.1% of India's international financial assets in March. The rise in foreign liabilities in the quarter was led by the increase in direct investment, loans as well as currency and deposits, the RBI said.

The ratio of India's international assets to international liabilities increased to 71.1% in March 2023, from 70.1% a quarter ago, the central bank said.

U.S. consumer spending stalls; inflation picture mixed

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. consumer spending fizzled in May as households cut back on purchases of light trucks and other long-lasting manufactured goods amid higher borrowing costs, suggesting the economy lost some speed in the second quarter.

While an official report showed inflation rising last month at its slowest pace in more than two years, underlying price pressures remained too strong to dissuade the Federal Reserve from raising rates in July.

DGCA special audit to decide Go First revival

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will conduct a special audit of Go First before it decides to permit it to resume flight operations.

The audit will be conducted at Go First's facilities at Mumbai and Delhi from July 4 to July 6.

"It will be focused on safety-related aspects and continued compliance of the requirements to hold an Air Operator Certificate," a senior DGCA official said.

The decision to audit the airline follows a meeting earlier this week between the Resolution Professional, Shailendra Ajmera, as well as the DGCA, where the former sought permission to start operations 'as soon as possible' with 22 aircraft.

Delegation to visit U.S. for promoting textile exports

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council on Friday said it plans to send a delegation to the U.S. soon to give fillip to export of man-made fibre and technical textiles.

Following PM Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S., the Council is working on the trip as the U.S. is one of the leading export markets for Indian textiles and clothing, Council Chairman Bhadresh Dodhia said.

Pvt. insurers' key staff pay tied to IRDAI rules

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has decided to bring key managerial persons (KMPs) of private insurers also, in addition to the top brass covered now, under the ambit of its guidelines on remuneration.

The norms provide a framework for remuneration, as well as give more clarity to the extent of variable pay, accounting and disclosures.

They would be applicable from 2023-24. IRDAI wants the companies to complete the process of framing/reviewing the remuneration policy based on the guidelines within three months.

In the revised guidelines on non-executive directors, IRDAI said the remuneration to each director, should not exceed ₹20 lakh a year. They will not be eligible for any equity-linked benefits.

IRDAI said the objectives behind the revised guidelines was to ensure effective governance of compensation besides safeguarding the interests of policy and stakeholders.

India's Hero MotoCorp to lift bike prices as costs rise

Reuters
BENGALURU

Two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp said it would raise prices of specific models of motorcycles and scooters by about 1.5% from July 3, as it combats price positioning, input costs and business imperatives.

The exact quantum of rise will vary with models and markets, the firm said. Hero previously raised prices by 2% in March, as it grappled with higher costs.

China factory activity, services stumble

Reuters
BEIJING

China's factory activity declined for a third straight month in June and weakness in other sectors deepened, official surveys showed on Friday, adding pressure for authorities to do more to shore up growth as demand falters at home and abroad.

The world's second-largest economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter largely due to a strong post-COVID rebound in consumption, but policymakers have been unable to sustain the momentum in the second quarter.

Services sector activity for June also recorded its weakest reading since China abandoned its strict COVID curbs late last year, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed.

Sport

Dipika-Harinder pair wins Asian squash c'ships

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

It was a red-letter day for India at the first Asian mixed doubles squash championships at Huangzhou (China) on Friday as the duo of Dipika Pallikal-Karthik and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu defeated the Malaysian pair of Rachel Arnold and Ivan Yuen 11-10, 11-8 in the final.

Dipika said the victory is a good preparation for the Asian Games.

"It went according to plan. We had trained hard keeping a few specifics in mind, happy the hard yards we put in worked well. It's always nice to bring a medal back home, nothing beats doing well for the country," she said.

Golden journey: Harinder and Dipika are elated after bringing home the mixed doubles gold medal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It's a massive confidence boost with the Asian Games around the corner. We would love to carry this rhythm there as well," she added.

Dipika further praised her partner Harinder. "He is a fantastic player with a wonderful future. We haven't played with each other, but we have known each other since the junior days and have travelled a lot together. Elated this partnership is working well. We go back, train harder work on a few things we need to look forward to doing better at the Asian Games."

India claims eighth Asian kabaddi title

Familiar frame: India defended its Asian Kabaddi Championships title with a 42-32 win over Iran. TWITTER/MEDIA_SAI

Press Trust of India
BUSAN (KOREA)

The Indian men's kabaddi team beat Iran 42-32 to defend its Asian Championships title, here on Friday. It was India's eighth title in the continental championships. Iran started aggressively, but Captain Pawan Sehrawat helped India inflict the first All-Out and gave the side a 10-4 lead.

India went into half time leading 23-11. Iranian all-rounder Mohammadreza Chiyaneh tried to lead his side's comeback but the team ended up conceding another All-Out to trail 14-33. India went on to maintain the stranglehold and sealed the issue.

Dedicate primed to repeat in the feature event

BENGALURU: Dedicate, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Five Stars Shipping Juvenile Sprinters' Million (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (July 1). False rails (width about 7.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ROYAL CHALLENGE PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Ultimate Chance (1) Inayat 62, 2. Rorito (6) Khurshad 61.5, 3. Altair (9) M. Naveen 61, 4. Sekhmet (8) Arvind K 61, 5. Sky Princess (7) Salman Khan 60, 6. Rule Of Law (10) Vishal Bunde 59, 7. Elite Agent (3) Kiran Rai 58.5, 8. Altamonte (12) Vivek 58, 9. Marco Polo (11) Syed Imran 56.5, 10. Max Mueller (2) Abhay S 56.5, 11. Pettes Love (4) Abdul Fazal 56 and 12. Sand Castles (5) Hindu S 53.

1. SAND CASTLES, 2. SEKHMET 3. ULTIMATE CHANCE

2 MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-00: 1. Able One (6) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. Mystical Merkabah (5) Kiran Rai 59.5, 3. Benignity (1) Vishal Bunde 4. Eco Friendly (7) Sai Kiran 57.5, 5. Antilope (3) Akshay K 57, 6. Akasi (4) Rayan 53.5, 7. Cinco De Mayo (2) Shreyas S 53 and 8. Sling Shot (8) S. Saqlain 53.

1. ANTILOPE, 2. CINCO DE MAYO, 3. ABLE ONE

3 POONAWALLA STUD PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Eternal Princess (10) Vinod Shinde 62.5, 2. Smithsonian (3) Vishal Bunde 60.5, 3. Anakin (8) Inayat 58, 4. Archway (6) Antony 57, 5. Mystic Eye (4) P.P. Dhebe 56.5, 6. Skyfire (5) S. Saba 56.5, 7. English Bay (7) T.S. Jodha 56, 8. Super Kind (1) Trevor 55, 9. Alcides Synergy (2) J.H. Arul 54 and 10. Montelena (9) S. Saqlain 54.

1. SKYFIRE, 2. SUPER KIND, 3. ENGLISH BAY

4 SMART CHIEFTAN PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Dynamic Force (1) G. Vivek 56, 2. High Tribute (5) Hindu S 56, 3. Knight Defensor (6) Trevor 56, 4. Marzgovel (4) Akshay K 56, 5. Crosswater (7) Antony 54.5, 6. Encantamento (8) Vishal Bunde 54.5, 7. Serai (3) P.S. Chouhan 54.5 and 8. Victoria Doresaani (2) S. Saqlain 54.5.

1. KNIGHT DEFENSOR, MARZGOVEL, 3. HIGH TRIBUTE

5 MANAGING COMMITTEE GOLD CUP (1,600m), rated 70 & above, 3-30: 1. Pissarro (5) Trevor 63, 2. De Villiers (1) Shreyas S 59, 3. Sea Lion (2) Srinath 58, 4. Pride's Angel (4) Akshay K 56.5, 5. Regency Smile (6) Hindu S 56 and 6. Moon's Blessing (3) P.S. Chouhan 55.

1. PRIDE'S ANGLE, 2. MOON'S BLESSING

6 FIVE STARS SHIPPING JUVENILE SPRINTERS' MILLION, (1,200m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Dedicate (4) Hindu S 57, 2. Kenaf (3) S. Saqlain 56.5, 3. Born To Be Spoilt (2) J.H. Arul 54, 4. Call Me (1) Shreyas S 54, 5. Leather Back (6) Sai Kiran 54, 6. Elizabeth Regina (–) (–) 52.5, 7. Exeter (–) (–) 52.5 and 8. Long Lease (5) Yash 52.5.

1. DEDICATE, 2. LONG LEASE

7 MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Clever Hans (8) Tousif 61, 2. Kanata (5) Srinath 61, 3. Millbrook (3) S. John 61, 4. Dragon's Gold (4) B. Dharshan 60, 5. Top Dancer (7) Trevor 60, 6. The Golden Dream (6) M. Naveen 59, 7. Air Display (2) S. Saba 58.5 and 8. Armory (1) Kiran Rai 57.

1. TOP DANCER, 2. CLEVER HANS, 3. DRAGON'S GOLD

Day's best: **KNIGHT DEFENSOR**
Double: **PRIDE'S ANGEL – DEDICATE**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

BIG BLOW

Lyon sustains 'significant strain' in calf, doubtful for rest of Ashes

Cricket Australia has confirmed that Australian spin veteran Nathan Lyon's participation in the remaining Ashes series against England is highly uncertain. This comes after Lyon sustained a "significant strain" in his calf. Lyon did not take the field on the third day of the second Test at Lord's. He had arrived at the ground on crutches.

AILMENT

Australian cricket legend Border reveals he has Parkinson's

Former captain Allan Border revealed on Friday he is suffering from Parkinson's disease. The 68-year-old has gone public seven years after being diagnosed with the illness and said he and a doctor friend both agreed it would be "a miracle" if he makes 80. "No way am I going to get another 100, that's for sure...," he said.

SETBACK

Swiatek in Wimbledon scare after food poisoning

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek suffered a Wimbledon scare on Friday when she was forced to withdraw from her Bad Homburg semifinal with suspected food poisoning. Swiatek was due to face Italy's Lucia Bronzetti in the semifinals. She will now focus on recovering in time to play at Wimbledon which gets underway on Monday.

MARCHING ON

Sreeja-Diya pair makes WTT Contender Zagreb semifinal

The Indian pair of Sreeja Akula and Diya Chitale entered the women's doubles semifinals of the World Table Tennis Contender in Zagreb on Friday, with a 9-11, 12-10, 11-7, 5-11, 11-8 win in a battle of fluctuating fortunes against Wong Xin Ru and Zeng Jian of Singapore.

England crumbles, concedes a 91-run lead; Aussies surge ahead

The home team loses the remaining six wickets for just 47 runs inside the first session; Khawaja provides a steady start with an unbeaten half-century as the visitors build on the advantage to be in front by 221 with eight wickets in hand

THE ASHES

Associated Press
LONDON

Australia stretched its lead to 221 runs against England for the loss of David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne's wickets when rain stopped play for the day in the final session of day three of the second Ashes Test here on Friday .

After a first-innings lead of 91, Australia made 130 for two in its second innings. Usman Khawaja, handled difficult batting conditions superbly, was on 58 and Steve Smith on six when the rain forced play to be suspended first before being called off later.

Earlier, Warner was leg before wicket to Josh Tongue for 25 and Labuschagne was caught by Brook of Anderson for 30.

The stickability of Khawaja and Warner in a stand of 63 from 24 overs was in stark contrast to England's performance in the morning, when only Jonny Bairstow and Stuart Broad scored more than 10 runs of the seven batters on

Procession complete: Tongue's short stay was snapped by Cummins as England's first innings hastened to a close. AFP

show. England slumped from 278 for four overnight to 325 all out before lunch.

But the home bowlers couldn't make the same breakthroughs that Australia's did in the morning. England thought it had Warner trapped lbw for five by James Anderson but burned a review when video showed ball hitting bat.

Warner was content to bat out of his crease, but struggled to score. Meanwhile, Khawaja was scoring, and the only nick he conceded flew through the gap between second and fourth slip.

Tongue could have had Khawaja on 19 but the crack through midwicket passed through Anderson's fingers. Tongue got Warner again when he made one nip in to the front pad. After making 25 from 76 balls, Warner reviewed, but the ball would have hit leg-stump.

Labuschagne was also given out to Tongue, who struck his back pad, but review showed the ball was missing the off-stump.

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: 416 in 100.4 overs.
England — 1st innings: Zak Crawley st. Carey b Lyon 48, Ben Duckett c Warner b Hazlewood 98, Ollie Pope c Smith b Green 42, Joe Root c Smith b Starc 10, Harry Brook c Cummins b Starc 50, Ben Stokes c Green b Starc 17, Jonny Bairstow c Cummins b Hazlewood 16, Stuart Broad lbw b Head 12, Ollie Robinson c Carey b Head 9, Josh Tongue c sub (Renshaw) b Cummins 1, James Anderson (not out) 0; Extras (b-9, lb-4, w-2, nb-7): 22; Total (in 76.2 overs): 325.
Fall of wickets: 1-91, 2-188, 3-208, 4-222, 5-279, 6-293, 7-311, 8-324, 9-325.
Australia bowling: Starc 17-0-88-3, Cummins 16.2-2-46-1, Hazlewood 13-1-71-2, Lyon 13-1-35-1, Green 9-0-54-1, Head 7-1-17-2, Smith 1-0-1-0.
Australia — 2nd innings: Usman Khawaja (batting) 58, David Warner lbw b Tongue 25, Marnus Labuschagne c Brook b Anderson 30, Steve Smith (batting) 6; Extras (b-4, lb-7): 11; Total (for two wkts. in 45.4 overs): 130.
Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-123.
England bowling: Anderson 14-3-41-1, Broad 13-4-39-0, Tongue 9-2-21-1, Robinson 9.4-5-18-0.

Djokovic could run into Kyrgios in the quarterfinals

WIMBLEDON

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Novak Djokovic will begin his quest for a record-equalling eighth Wimbledon title against Argentina's Pedro Cachin, with a potential rematch of last year's final against Nick Kyrgios looming in the quarterfinals.

Djokovic could face Andrey Rublev or Felix Auger-Aliassime in the last eight should Kyrgios not make it, with his projected semifinal to come against Jannik Sinner or Casper Ruud, who he beat in the French Open final earlier this month.

Finding his feet

Top seed and World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz has not been beyond the fourth round at Wimbledon in two appearances, but is finding his feet on the grass after winning at Queen's Club last week.

Alcaraz starts against Frenchman Jeremy Chardy, but has a tricky path through to the latter stages with the prospect for a rematch of the Queen's final against Alex de Minaur in the fourth round and World No. 6 Holger Rune in the quarter-finals.

Fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas takes on former U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem in the tie of the men's first round with the winner potentially facing two-time champion Andy Murray, who takes on wild card Ryan Peniston in his opener.

Look out for me, again! Djokovic could well have mused so to Kyrgios given this year's draw for The Championships. REUTERS

Easier draw

Top seed Iga Swiatek has been handed the kinder side of the women's draw.

The Pole begins against China's Zhu Lin and is projected to face Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals and Jessica Pegula or Caroline Garcia in the last four.

Heavy bottom half

The bottom half of the draw is stacked with defending champion Elena Rybakina, World No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and last year's finalist Ons Jabeur.

Five-time winner Venus Williams will take on a fellow wild card Elina Svitolina in one of the ties of the first round.

The third Grand Slam of the season gets underway on July 3 (Monday).

Interesting first-round match-ups

Men
Tsitsipas vs Thiem
Berrettini vs Sonego
Goffin vs Kyrgios
Rublev vs Purcell
Fritz vs Hanfmann

Women
Swiatek vs Lin
Venus vs Svitolina
Kenin vs Gauff
Rybakina vs Rogers
Sabalenka vs Udvardy

North continues to dictate terms, sets North East a mammoth target

DULEEP TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

North Zone ruthlessly drove North East Zone into the ground on the penultimate day of their Duleep Trophy quarterfinal at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday.

North came out firing in the morning session to dismiss North East for 134. Despite sitting on a mammoth 406-run innings lead, North decided not to enforce the follow-on.

Ankit Kumar (70), Prabhsimran Singh (59), Jayant Yadav (55 n.o.) and Ankit Kalsi (49) made merry in the afternoon session, swelling North's already sizeable advantage. Ankit had the chance a score a century, but once he was dismissed one over after tea, the declaration came.

This left North East with an unattainable target of 666. Skipper Jayant, out for a duck in the first essay, stated that it was important for him to get among the runs. "At the start of the season, it is important to get some time at the crease. Our next match (semifinals) will be against South, so it great to score a fifty here," Jayant said.

Piling on the misery: Ankit was one of the batters to make merry as North Zone swelled its lead. SUDHAKARA JAIN

There was a moment of celebration for North East when seamer Jotin Pheiroijam delivered a peach to dismiss first-innings centurion Dhruv Shorey. The 17-year-old Pheiroijam landed one on middle and leg, and got the ball to move sharply to take out off stump.

The drained North East top-order melted in the second innings. Opener Joseph Lalthankhuma (7) guided a short ball from Baltej to point, and his partner Kishan Lyndoh (14) flashed hard at a harmless loosener from Harshit Rana to the wicketkeeper.

Just before close, slip fielder Prashant Chopra caught Langlonyamba Meitan napping, throwing down the stumps when the batter wandered out.

The scores: North Zone — 1st innings: 540 for eight decl.
North East Zone — 1st innings: Kishan Lyndoh b Kaul 5, Joseph Lalthankhuma c Prabhsimran b Baltej 4, Nilesh Lamichaney b Kaul 44, R. Jonathan lbw b Harshit 15, Langlonyamba Meitan run out 2, Palzor Tamang lbw b Jayant 8, P. Prafullomani c Shorey b Narang 19, Jotin Pheiroijam lbw b Kaul 0, Imliwati Lemtur (not out) 11, Kishan Singha b Narang 7, Dippu Sangma b Narang 4; Extras (lb-6, nb-9): 15; Total (in 39.2 overs): 134.
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-10, 3-57, 4-69, 5-82, 6-89, 7-90, 8-111, 9-126, 10-134.
North bowling: Baltej 8-1-32-1, Kaul 8-3-16-3, Harshit Rana 6-1-22-1, Jayant 11-0-31-1, Narang 6.2-0-27-3.
North — 2nd innings: Dhruv Shorey b Pheiroijam 11, Prashant Chopra c Jonathan b Pheiroijam 8, Ankit Kalsi lbw b Singha 49, Prabhsimran Singh b Imliwati 59, Ankit Kumar st Prafullomani b Singha 70, Nishant Sindhu c (sub) Akash b Imliwati 3, Jayant Yadav (not out) 55; Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-1): 4; Total (for six wkts. decl. in 55.1 overs): 259.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-23, 3-106, 4-140, 5-146, 6-259.
North East bowling: Palzor 4-1-15-0, Pheiroijam 8-1-44-2, Dippu 3-0-27-0, Kishan Singha 14.1-4-46-2, Imliwati 16-0-61-2, Jonathan 7-0-37-0, Langlonyamba 3-0-26-0.
North East — 2nd innings: Kishan Lyndoh c Prabhsimran b Harshit 14, Joseph Lalthankhuma c Sindhu b Baltej 7, Langlonyamba Meitan run out 13, Palzor Tamang (batting) 13, Nilesh Lamichaney (batting) 5; Extras (b-2, lb-4): 6; Total (for three wkts. in 18 overs): 58.
Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-23, 3-44.
North bowling: Baltej 4-1-11-1, Harshit 5-1-19-1, Narang 5-1-4-0, Jayant 4-1-18-0.

Central has East, needing 300 for a win, on the mat

Good hand: Himanshu's half-century gave Central a solid start in the second innings. LALITH KALIDAS

Lalith Kalidas
BENGALURU

Central Zone was in the driving seat on day three of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal against East Zone at the Alur (1) Cricket Ground here on Friday.

After failing to build on its openers' solid effort amidst three fiery spells from Ishan Porel, Central folded up for 239 in its second essay. It set up a 300-run target before Saurabh Kumar (four for 33) gnawed at the East top-order, leaving it 69 for six at stumps.

On a deck that retained its hardness, the East batters failed to apply themselves again.

The morning session was split between Central's openers and Porel who bowled his heart out on a flat deck. While Himanshu Mantri and Vivek Singh lifted the team to 124 with the first pair of half-centuries in the match, Porel held one end tight, conceding just six in his first four-over spell. The Bengal seamer then uprooted Vivek's leg-stump before Shahbaz Nadeem prized out Mantri on 68 before lunch.

Central's middle-order meltdown – from 182 for four to 201 for eight – gave hope to Easwaran's men before Saransh Jain (32 n.o., 60b, 2x4) set up a daunting chase for East.

The scores: Central Zone — 1st innings: 182.
East Zone — 1st innings: 122.
Central — 2nd innings: Himanshu Mantri c Parag b Nadeem 68, Vivek Singh b Porel 56, Kunal Chandela lbw b Ahmed 14, Shubham Sharma lbw b Ahmed 23, Rinku Singh c Mishra b Parag 6, Upendra Yadav lbw b Porel 7, Saurabh Kumar lbw b Porel 0, Shivam Mavi c Majumdar b Ahmed 5, Saransh Jain (not out) 32, Avesh Khan b Nadeem 16, Yash Thakur b Parag 1; Extras (lb-4, w-1, nb-6): 11; Total (in 87.5 overs): 239.
Fall of wickets: 1-124, 2-138, 3-157, 4-164, 5-182, 6-182, 7-184, 8-201, 9-231.
East bowling: Murasingh 10-2-30-0, Akash 16-4-29-0, Porel 12-4-15-3, Ahmed 20-2-66-3, Parag 14.5-2-51-2, Nadeem 15-2-44-2.
East — 2nd innings: Shantanu Mishra c Upendra b Saurabh 18, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Saurabh 11, Sudip Gharami c Vivek b Avesh 0, Anustup Majumdar lbw b Saurabh 13, Shahbaz Ahmed c Upendra b Saurabh 18, Riyan Parag (batting) 6, Kumar Kushagra lbw b Mavi 0, Manisankar Murasingh (batting) 0; Extras (lb-2, w-1): 3; Total (for six wkts. in 29 overs): 69.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-19, 3-36, 4-61, 5-62, 6-69.
Central bowling: Mavi 7-3-7-1, Avesh 6-2-16-1, Saurabh 12-3-33-4, Thakur 4-1-11-0.

Three teams share top spot at GCL

Sports Bureau

The league phase of the Global Chess League is poised for an exciting finish in Dubai.

Fine margins

Going into the last day of the league stage on Saturday, three teams are tied on top of the table.

Ganges Grandmasters, SG Alpine Warriors and Triveni Continental Kings are all tied on 15 match points.

Upgrad Mumba Masters is in fourth place with 13 points, followed by Chingari Gulf Titans (10) and Balan Alaskan Knights (nine).

The two teams with the best match-point scores will qualify for the final. In case of a tie, the game points will come into play.

Ganges Grandmasters has 79 game points, Alpine Warriors is on 69, Continental Kings on 68 and Upgrad Mumba on 65.

Levon Aronian had an exceptional day as he led Continental Kings' remarkable surge towards the top.

He defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi in his team's wins against Alpine Warriors (10-8) and Alaskan Knights (10-9).

INBRIEF

Rana back as Manu's coach nearly two years after a split

Legendary pistol marksman and multiple Asian Games gold medallist Jaspal Rana confirmed on Friday that he is back as coach of one of India's best shooters Manu Bhaker, nearly two years after a split that hogged the headlines for days. Manu had parted ways with Rana because of reported irreconcilable differences in the run-up to the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

WI squad for preparatory camp for India Test series

Kraigg Brathwaite will continue to lead the side as Cricket West Indies on Friday announced an 18-member squad for the preparatory camp ahead of the two-match Test series against India. The camp begins at CCG, Antigua, on Friday.

The team (for camp): Kraigg Brathwaite (Capt.), Alick Athanaze, Jermaine Blackwood, Nkrumah Bonner, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Rahkeem Cornwall, Joshua Da Silva, Shannon Gabriel, Kavem Hodge, Akeem Jordan, Jair McAllister, Kirk McKenzie, Marquino Mindley, Anderson Phillip, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales and Jomel Warrican.

Stimac banned for two games, to miss SAFF C'ships final too

India head coach Igor Stimac has been banned for two games and fined $500 for the red-card offence against Kuwait in the SAFF Championship being held in Bengaluru. The automatic one-match ban had already disqualified him from Saturday's semifinal against Lebanon. The Croat will not be available even if India progresses to Tuesday's final.

KSCA delegation meets CM, invites him for WC matches

A delegation of the office-bearers of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), led by its president & former Test cricketer Raghuram Bhat, secretary Shankar and treasurer Jayram, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and invited him for ICC World Cup matches to be held in Bengaluru. They also urged the government to provide land to construct cricket stadiums in every district of Karnataka to popularise the game more.

LIVE TELECAST

CWC 2023 Qualifiers: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), Hotstar & FanCode, 12.30 p.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m.

The Ashes: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Formula One: Austrian GP, Sprint Shootout, F1 TV & F1 TV Pro, 3.30 p.m.; Sprint Race, 8 p.m.

SAFF Championship: FanCode, 3 p.m.; Lebanon vs India, 7.30 p.m.

FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD),& Hotstar, 5.40 & 8.10 p.m.

India holds the edge against Lebanon

The Blue Tigers beat the Cedars in the Intercontinental Cup final recently; the hosts will miss defender Jhingan and coach Stimac on the touchline

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

One of the reasons the 2023 SAFF Championship welcomed two West Asian sides in Kuwait and Lebanon was to make the tournament more competitive. India, after all, had won eight of the past 13 editions, and the presence of a couple of evenly matched teams would certainly liven up proceedings.

The India-Kuwait game on Tuesday fit the billing, and India nearly edged the contest before an unfortunate own goal denied it a famous win. On Saturday at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, the hope is for another feisty encounter as the hosts will look to put one across Lebanon in the semifinals.

Recent history suggests that India has the edge, having beaten Lebanon in the Intercontinental Cup final a fortnight ago and drawn the other group stage game in Bhubaneswar. Form-wise, India can take heart from the performance against Kuwait where it was the better team for large chunks of the match.

India pressed high up the pitch, attacked in droves and transitioned excellently from defence to offence. Sunil Chhetri up front, the wingers in Naorem Mahesh and Lallianzuala Chhangte, and the defenders in Akash Mishra and Anwar Ali were all excellent.

However, against Lebanon, Chhetri & Co. will have to do without Sandesh Jhingan in defence and head coach Igor Stimac on the touchline. The towering Jhingan, who played a pivotal role in the 1-1 draw against Kuwait, is suspended after picking up his second yellow card. Stimac is banned after his second red in as many matches.

That Lebanon will be keen to avenge the Intercontinental Cup loss will add spice. The Aleksandar Ilic-coached outfit topped Group-B with three wins out of three and the Serbian's promise of "Total Football" indicated that his wards will play to win.

"There are no secrets any more [between the teams]," declared Ilic on Friday. "We are really motivated and I am pushing my players psychologically to make them believe we can succeed. It will be very important that we score the first goal. That will help us end the semifinal in a positive way."

In the other semifinal, Bangladesh will take on Kuwait.

Twin motivation: Chhetri says he loves football and playing for the country. K. MURALI KUMAR

No idea when my last game for the country will be, says Chhetri

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Sunil Chhetri's retirement, like M.S. Dhoni's from the IPL, is among the most discussed news stories. But such is the radiance the 38-year-old emits even in the autumn of his sporting life that all talk of his career winding up mostly die a quick death.

On Friday, ahead of the SAFF Championship semifinal against Lebanon, when a scribe asked him if this tournament could be his last national team outing in his beloved city of Bengaluru, Chhetri's first reaction was: "Wow!"

"I have no idea when my last game for the country will be," Chhetri went on. "I have never had long-term targets. I think about the next 10 days, the next match and the next training session.

"There are some parameters...whether I am contributing to the team, whether I am able to sprint with Udanta [Singh], whether I am going for headers with Sandesh [Jhingan]... the day I see that these are not there, I am gone.

"There are just two motivations for me to play – I love football and I love playing for the country. The fame, the money don't impress me," he added.

What also drives Chhetri is probably the chance to cap his stellar career with a fine performance at the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

The SAFF Championship, with West Asian sides Kuwait and Lebanon in it, can help India settle on a core and crystallise a playing philosophy for the marquee tournament.

"We are gelling well," Chhetri said. "When you play Lebanon and Kuwait, you get an idea of how Syria, Uzbekistan [Asian Cup opponents] are.

"We will be meeting Australia but until then we will be playing the ISL. With due respect to the ISL, we might not face the same tempo and standard Australia will bring.

"That's why I am really happy that the likes of Kuwait and Lebanon came. These matches give you a different challenge."

BAI asks players to rectify age by July 10

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Badminton Association of India on Friday decided to extend the deadline for its one-time 'Voluntary Age Rectification Scheme (VARS)' to July 10 in wake of rampant age-fudging cases in the sport.

The scheme is meant for registered players who have existing BAI identification cards, but have incorrect date of birth or have discrepancies in the date of birth or age.

Under the scheme, the apex body had allowed players to rectify their correct date of birth within a specified window of 20 days starting from June 6-25. But given a great response, BAI has now extended the window.

"There has been great response and seeing that we have decided to extend the date to July 10 and I am hoping this extension will bolster our mission of compliance and betterment of players and Indian badminton," BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra told PTI.

Age fraud has been a perennial problem in badminton. Multiple cases of age-fudging were reported during the All India sub-junior under-13 ranking tournament in Hyderabad last year and at the ongoing U-13 event in Mohali.

The association had made it clear that players who don't update their data during the 'VARS grace period' would attract heavy penalties in terms of ban from sanctioned tournament if found guilty of age fudging in future.

Verstappen takes fourth pole in row and the sixth of the season

AUSTRIAN GP

Agence France-Presse
SPIELBERG (AUSTRIA)

World champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull claimed a fourth pole in a row, and the sixth of the season, at the Austrian Grand Prix on Friday.

Charles Leclerc will join the World championship leader on the front row ahead of his Ferrari teammate Carlos Sainz who qualified third-quickest and starts alongside Lando Norris of McLaren on the second row.

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes qualified in fifth followed by the Aston Martins of Lance Stroll and Fernando Alonso. Nico Hulkenberg (Haas), Pierre Gasly (Alpine) and Alex Albon (Williams) complete the top 10 on the grid.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez failed to make the top 10 for a fourth straight race.

Friday's qualifying sets the starting grid for Sunday, while Saturday's shootout session sets the grid for the sprint race in the afternoon.

The 25-year-old Verstappen, who is chasing a seventh victory this season, leads the title race by 69 points ahead of Mexican Perez, the only other driver to have won this season in Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan.

I did it! Verstappen after scorching the Red Bull Ring to seal the first row for Sunday's race. REUTERS

Winner of the last four races, Verstappen is favourite on his team's home Red Bull circuit. He has already won four times there – three Austrian GPs and one Styrian GP.

To achieve a one-two at home, Red Bull will have more difficulty.

The Grid (Sunday's race):

Row 1: Verstappen (Red Bull), Leclerc (Ferrari); **Row 2:** Sainz (Ferrari), Norris (McLaren); **Row 3:** Hamilton (Mercedes), Stroll (Aston Martin); **Row 4:** Alonso (Aston Martin), Hulkenburg (Haas); **Row 5:** Gasly (Alpine), Albon (Williams).

Row 6: Russell (Williams), Ocon (Alpine); **Row 7:** Piastri (McLaren), Bottas (Alfa Romeo); **Row 8:** Perez (Red Bull), Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); **Row 9:** Zhou (Alfa Romeo); Sergeant (Williams); **Row 10:** Magnussen (Haas); de Vries (AlphaTauri).

Ukrainian athlete questions Bach on Russia issue for Paris 2024 Olympic Games

Associated Press
GENEVA

IOC president Thomas Bach was quizzed by a Ukrainian Olympic athlete on Thursday about needing to keep Russians out of the 2024 Paris Games before he went to see the high jump event of another Ukrainian who had criticised him a day earlier.

Ukrainian track and field teammates Viktoriia Tkachuk and Yaroslava Mahuchikh came to the International Olympic Committee's home city of Lausanne in Switzerland for the annual meet in the global Diamond League series.

Two-time Olympian Tkachuk was among about 15 athletes who took up the IOC's invitation to visit its offices and meet Bach, who has this year urged sports bodies to let some Russians with neutral status compete in qualifying events for Paris. She has also criticised Ukraine's government for trying to stop its athletes competing in the same events as Russians.

Bach... on a mission. AFP

Tkachuk used the time to give Bach a rare face-to-face meeting with a Ukrainian athlete and "insist on the need to isolate Russia from international competitions," she later wrote in an Instagram post.

Tkachuk was joined at the IOC by another 400m hurdler from Ukraine, Anna Ryzhykova. They finished sixth and fifth, respectively, in the Olympic final at Tokyo two years ago won by American Sydney McLaughlin in a world-record time.

Bach insists the Olympics has a mission to bring the world together in sports and that it would be discrimination to exclude Russians and Belarusians just because of their passport.

'Hunted' Vingegaard buzzing as he prepares to renew rivalry with Pogacar

TOUR DE FRANCE

Agence France-Presse
BILBAO

Cycling's Tour de France, with its caravan of teams, media, publicity and security, was visible everywhere around Bilbao, as champion Jonas Vingegaard prepared to start the defence of his title. The 22 teams received a loud reception on their parade in downtown Bilbao on Thursday.

Starting in front of the landmark Guggenheim Museum with the tension tangible as riders warmed up beneath low hanging black clouds with the peculiar hills straddling the horizon.

"I feel good, I feel ready, I'm where I want to be," said Jumbo-Visma rider Vingegaard.

Ready to roll: Champion Vingegaard at the unveiling of the teams in front of the famous Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. AP

Vingegaard said he was ready to renew his rivalry with two-time champion Tadej Pogacar and laughed off suggestions that the Slovenian would be hampered by a wrist injury suffered in April.

"I expect (him) to attack right from stage one, just like he did last year, and I'll be there to follow him," said the Dane. "As champion, you could say I'm the hunted man, but believe me I'll be hunting too."

The 110th edition will spend three days in the Basque country, where cycling is hugely popular and the course should provide for a thrilling start.

Stage 1 is a constantly undulating circuit of 182km starting and ending in Bilbao.

"This kind of start here in the Basque Country means the guys trying to win the race can't relax at all," said France's Julian Alaphilippe, one of the attack-minded riders who could find Saturday's opening stage attractive.

Jumbo's Wout van Aert is another rider to watch out for on the first day. "This is the biggest race in the world and I hope I can start it well because I know how good it feels," said the Belgian.

Bilbao is decked out with Tour de France images on the sides of buses and flooded with local police wearing the regional red berets.

Tour director Christian Prudhomme described the region as "the yellow jersey of spectators".